

FCR 8

Office of the President
September 9, 2008

Members, Board of Trustees:

RENOVATE WILLIAM E. AND CASIANA SCHMIDT
VOCAL ARTS CENTER

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a pledge of \$1 million from William E. and Casiana Schmidt and approve initiation of the “Renovate William E. and Casiana Schmidt Vocal Arts Center” (formerly known as the Koinonia House) capital project.

Background: At its October 16, 2007 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved renaming the Koinonia House the William E. and Casiana Schmidt Vocal Arts Center in recognition of the Schmidt’s pledge of \$1 million to the UK Opera Program. Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt have designated \$500,000 of their pledge to help fund the \$1.2 million renovation of the Schmidt Vocal Arts Center. The remaining cost will be paid for with unrestricted fund balances.

This project continues the renovation of the Vocal Arts Center, which houses the UK Opera Program. The facility was acquired by the University in 1991. At that time, some of the first-floor was renovated, but the second floor of the building remains shelled space.

The current project includes upgrades to the electrical and mechanical systems and installation of a sprinkler system, a new stairwell, and an elevator. The project also begins fitting out space on the second floor to address needs created by the recent growth of the Opera Program. The second floor will eventually include rehearsal rooms, teaching studios, classrooms, practice rooms, a dance studio, and office space for staff and graduate assistants.

Mr. Schmidt is a native of Irvine, Kentucky, and he and Mrs. Schmidt, who now live in Sarasota, Florida, are longtime supporters of opera programs throughout the United States. The UK Opera Program has been identified as an Area of Excellence at the University and has received national and international recognition.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____