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Office of the President
September 11, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Recommendation: that Donna Arnett be appointed Dean of the College of Public Health, effective November 1, 2015.

Background: Dr. Arnett is currently Chair of the Department of Epidemiology and Associate Dean for Academic and Strategic Programs at the University of Alabama at Birmingham. She received a Ph.D. (1992) in Epidemiology from the University of North Carolina, and a Master of Science in Public Health (1987) and Bachelor of Science in Nursing (1981) from the University of South Florida.

Dr. Arnett recently completed a term as the President of the National American Heart Association. She was the first epidemiologist to be elected to serve in that role and the second Ph.D. ever to hold the position of President.

Dr. Arnett has been an National Institutes of Health (NIH)-funded researcher for 20 years. She studies genes related to hypertensive disorders and the target organ damage from hypertension. She has published more than 450 peer-reviewed papers and two books. She currently holds three NIH grants for research on genes that determine physiological response to a high fat diet and the cholesterol-controlling drug fenofibrate and hypertension-induced left ventricular hypertrophy.

A native of Kentucky, Dr. Arnett sees her new role as an opportunity to address health disparities relevant to the region, including cancer and drug abuse.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____