

PR 3E

Office of the President
December 11, 2001

Members, Board of Trustees:

ART MUSEUM DIRECTOR EMERITA TITLE
BE CONFERRED UPON HARRIET FOWLER

Recommendation: that Dr. Harriet Fowler be named Art Museum Director Emerita in recognition of her long service and dedication to the University of Kentucky Art Museum.

Background: In 1981, Dr. Fowler was employed as Curator of the University of Kentucky Art Museum and served in that capacity until 1990. In 1990, Dr. Fowler was appointed as Interim Director of the Art Museum until 1991 when she was appointed Director of the University of Kentucky Art Museum. Dr. Fowler served in that capacity until her retirement in June 2001.

Dr. Fowler dedicated her years of service to making work of arts available to all Kentuckians, especially school children. Dr. Fowler promoted the Arts to Kentucky schools and conducted numerous tours for school children. During Dr. Fowler's tenure with the UK Art Museum, it received many acquisitions; most notably, the Proskauer Bequest received in 1992 in which the Museum received more than 180 works of modernist paintings and sculpture (including works by Dubuffet, Gorky, Calder, and Avery), a selection of masterworks of art glass (including works by Tiffany, Gallé and the Daum family), an international assortment of chess sets, a selection of toys, weathervanes, and whirligigs by American folk artists. In 1993, the Art Museum received the bequest of Robert C. May that included a gift of photographs by nationally prominent American photographers and an endowment fund to support additional acquisitions and programs which have brought national renown to the museum.

Dr. Fowler was instrumental in attracting exhibitions to the UK Art Museum, most notably, 1999-2000, *A Place Not Forgotten: Landscapes of the South*, this was a collaborative exhibition with the Morris Museum of Art, Augusta, Georgia, underwritten in part by the Museum Loan Network. In 1999, the exhibition *Bluegrass Collectors II*, was composed of art work in regional private collections. In 1993, the exhibition *Photographs by Marvin and Morgan Smith* was works by twin African-American, Lexington-born artists who achieved prominence for their documentation of life in Harlem in the 1930s and '40s. And in 1992, the exhibit, *With Joy and Wonder: Ante-bellum Taste in the Bluegrass* was a bicentennial gathering of art and decorative art from public and private collections.

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____