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Office of the President
June 24, 2003

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

Recommendation: that Dr. Jeannine Blackwell be appointed as Dean of the Graduate School, effective July 1, 2003.

Background: In July 2001, Dr. Douglass Kalika, was appointed Acting Dean of the Graduate School. After Dr. Kalika announced his intention to return to the faculty in the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering, a search committee was appointed to identify and recommend qualified persons for the position of Dean of the Graduate School. The search committee considered approximately 40 candidates and three finalists were interviewed on campus. Dr. Blackwell received broad support across the University.

Dr. Blackwell is currently Senior Associate Dean for Academic Administration in the Graduate School and Professor of German at the University of Kentucky. She received a Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1982 and a bachelor's degree (1971) and master's degree (1975) from Duke University. Since coming to the University of Kentucky in 1985 she has served in a variety of administrative capacities, including Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Acting Director of Women's Studies, Chair of the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Executive Director of the Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.

Dr. Blackwell's research centers on German and central European women's writings from the Reformation to the present. She has published two co-edited translated anthologies; one co-edited essay collection on Early Modern Germany; 21 articles, chapters, and review essays; and many other encyclopedia entries, forewords, book reviews, and other translations. She has received year-long fellowships from Fulbright and the National Endowment for the Humanities and shorter term grants from ACLS, NEH, Deutsche Akademische Austauschdienst, and the American Association of Teachers of German. She chairs the prestigious Publications Committee of the Modern Language Association. She is the first elected President of the organization Women in German, and has served on the executive committee of the German Studies Association.

Dr. Blackwell has the experience and qualifications to be an excellent Dean of the Graduate School. The University is fortunate to attract such a highly qualified person to this position.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____