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Office of the President
March 9, 2005

Members, Board of Trustees:

ESTABLISHMENT OF A CARDIOVASCULAR RESEARCH CENTER

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of a Cardiovascular Research Center in the College of Medicine.

Background: Cardiovascular diseases are the predominant cause of morbidity and mortality in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Modifiable risk factors for the development of major cardiovascular diseases, such as acute coronary syndromes and stroke, include poor nutrition, excessive smoking, and sedentary lifestyle. However, the full spectrum of factors that initiate and propagate these diseases has not been defined. Still other major cardiovascular diseases, such as abdominal aortic aneurysms, have poorly defined etiologies and limited medical treatment strategies.

The University of Kentucky has recruited a faculty with exceptional strength in cardiovascular research. This group of investigators is particularly prominent in research on cardiovascular diseases that develop as a consequence of dyslipidemia and inflammation and has obtained substantial funding from both federal and nonfederal sources. Faculty members are appointed in the Colleges of Medicine, Pharmacy, and Agriculture and in multiple departments within these colleges. The Center will enhance the cardiovascular research environment by facilitating interactions through the consolidated location of some investigators with similar interests in the Graduate Center for Nutritional Sciences and through collaborations with investigators elsewhere in the university. It will also assist in the development of core facilities to increase efficiency and expedite the generation of data.

The proposal has been reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council and recommended for approval by the University Senate. The Provost of the university supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____