

FCR 4

Office of the President
June 17, 2008

Members, Board of Trustees:

DR. M. S. AND SOWMYA VIJI GIFT AND PLEDGE

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a gift of \$200,000 and a pledge of \$800,000 from Dr. M. S. Sowmya and Viji of Lexington, Kentucky to create and endow the President A. P. J. Abdul Kalam India Studies Endowment in the Office of the Provost. This gift will fund a professorship in India studies in the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

Background: Dr. Viji is a founding member of the Bluegrass Indo American Civic Society and played a leadership role in hosting a visit from Dr. Kalam, former President of India, in March, 2008. The new endowment named for Dr. Kalam and the multidisciplinary center it proposes will be housed in the Office of the Provost. The proposed Center of Excellence for India Studies would promote both individual and collaborative studies representing India in our curricula and throughout the academic enterprise. Such work would provide Kentucky students the opportunity to learn about India in depth, as well as provide exposure for UK in India.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other_____