

FCR 8

Office of the President
September 14, 2010

Members, Board of Trustees:

TRANSFER OF REAL PROPERTY REFERRED TO AS GRIFFITH WOODS IN
HARRISON COUNTY, KENTUCKY TO
KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE RESOURCES

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees authorize the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration to transfer to the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (“KDFWR”) without consideration approximately 390-400 acres of real property on US highway 62 and Kentucky Highway 353 in southern Harrison County, Kentucky known as Griffith Woods or Silver Lake Farm.

Background: Kentucky Revised Statute 164A.575 requires that the Board of Trustees approve the disposal of any surplus property owned by the University of Kentucky.

Pursuant to FCR 4 approved on December 9, 2003, the University purchased the property in February of 2004 with a \$1,120,000.00 grant from the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Board. As conditions of the grant, the property was subjected to a conservation easement, as described in KRS 382.800 et seq., and the University agreed to manage the property pursuant to the terms of a resource management plan for property, which requires on-going expenditures. Although of significance, the property is not a priority for the College of Agriculture or the Tracy Farmer Center, and both recommend that it is in the best interest of the University that the property be transferred to another state agency that is able and willing to maintain it in accordance with the easement and the management plan. The requirements of the conservation and management plan, and fact that the Kentucky Heritage Land Conservation Board approval is required for the transfer, make any other disposition impractical.

The Vice President for Research has negotiated an agreement with the KDFWR that would transfer responsibility for the management plan to KDFWR but would allow University researchers to access the property. Portions of this property contains what is said to be best remnant of pre-settlement savanna-woodland in the Bluegrass region, and the woods on the property contain a variety of mature trees including ancient chinquapin oaks, bur oaks, blue ashes, and shagbark and shagbark hickory, many 150 to 300 or more years old. The woods have been of interest to scholars in this area for many years. However, the distance from UK, the cost of managing invasive exotics and repopulating with native plants, along with the interest of KDFWR in managing the property, indicate that another state agency would be better situated to manage the property. KRS

164A.575(7) provides that the Board may sell or otherwise dispose of real property of the institution which is not needed or has become unsuitable for public use, or would be more suitable consistent with the public interest for some other use, as determined by the board.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____