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Office of the President
September 14, 2010

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF DEAN OF LIBRARIES

Recommendation: that Dr. Terry L. Birdwhistell be appointed as Dean of Libraries, effective July 1, 2010.

Background: Ms. Carol Pitts Diedrichs resigned as Dean of Libraries effective January 4, 2010. A search committee was appointed to identify and recommend qualified persons for the position of Dean of Libraries. The search committee considered approximately 20 candidates, and three finalists were interviewed on campus. Dr. Birdwhistell received enthusiastic support across the university and was strongly supported by the search committee.

Dr. Birdwhistell is currently the Associate Dean for Special Collections and Digital Programs and Co-Director of the Wendell H. Ford Public Policy Research Center and has been serving as interim dean since January. Dr. Birdwhistell received his master's degrees in history and library and information science, and a doctorate in educational policy studies and evaluation from the University of Kentucky.

A noted oral historian, Dr. Birdwhistell assumed the position of director of UK's Oral History Program in 1974 and is credited with building the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History into one of the nation's top programs during his 31 years of service guiding the program. In the 1980s, Dr. Birdwhistell began taking on several other leadership positions in UK Libraries including serving as University Archivist from 1985 to 2001. He has also served as executive secretary of the UK Libraries National Advisory Board since 2007. Dr. Birdwhistell serves as co-general editor of the "Kentucky Remembered: An Oral History Series" published by the University Press of Kentucky.

Dr. Birdwhistell serves on the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress, Kentucky's State Archives and Records Commission and the executive board of the Kentucky Historical Society. He is a past president of the national Oral History Association, the Kentucky Council on Archives, and the Kentucky-Tennessee American Studies Association.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____