

ASACR 2

Office of the President
April 1, 2014

Members, Board of Trustees:

CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF UROLOGY

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the creation of the Department of Urology in the College of Medicine, effective July 1, 2014.

Background: The Department of Surgery was founded in 1960 with the formation of the University of Kentucky Medical School. The Department housed all of the various surgical disciplines with the exception of Obstetrics and Gynecology (OB/GYN). At the time, this was the norm. Over the last 20 years, most academic centers have moved away from this model. Medicine had changed and the subspecialty practices of Orthopedics, Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology and Urology have grown away from general surgery. The movement began toward the establishment of independent departments for the disciplines of Orthopedics, Neurosurgery, Otolaryngology and Urology. The University of Kentucky has been no exception, but the process started much later here. The delayed fragmentation of the Department of Surgery was a testament to the quality of its leaders and the generally high degree of autonomy afforded the surgical subspecialties. However, with the majority of institutions moving away from large general surgery departments, this process came to the University of Kentucky. At its October 2004 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the formation of the Department of Orthopedics, followed by the Department of Neurosurgery at the March 2007 meeting. Following these two initial new departments, the Department of Otolaryngology was approved by the Board at its June 2011 meeting.

With the departure of these subspecialties, the Department of General Surgery has remained strong. The essence of this strength is a common purpose of practice and education among the more traditional disciplines of general surgery. Like Otolaryngology, Urology has grown away from general surgery and thus the trend nationally is to have Urology as an independent department.

The proposal has been reviewed and recommended by the Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee and the Senate Council; and endorsed by the University Senate. The Provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____