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Chairman, Board of Trustees
October 18, 2024

Members, Board of Trustees:

ADVANCING KENTUCKY TOGETHER

Recommendation: The University of Kentucky's vision and mission is to advance Kentucky in every way that improves the quality of life for the people of the Commonwealth. Ultimately, the single greatest challenge to that goal is ensuring a healthy state. Health in this context means physical health — the treatment of disease and the prevention of it. But it also, importantly, means well-being, quality of life and economic vitality by growing and sustaining a skilled workforce. These broad definitions of health are interconnected and, in so many ways, inextricably linked. To advance Kentucky, its university — the University of, for and with Kentucky — must work together with, and in support of, partners to advance the health in the Commonwealth.

Further, when we address all those dimensions of health for Kentucky, we are addressing them for the country. A central part of our mission as a leading public research university is to create and disseminate knowledge through education, research, service and care. Local answers, in an important sense, can mean global solutions.

Lowering cancer rates in our state — through prevention, treatment and clinical trials of novel drugs and therapeutics — translates to a greater capacity to lower them everywhere. New drugs that arrest the advance of dementia or Alzheimer's in our state herald the promise of progress in every corner of the country. Partnering and supporting strong community hospitals and providers will open access to more affordable, outstanding care, creating a national model for delivery.

A highly skilled and prepared workforce — more students enrolled and more of them graduating on time and without significant debt — raises labor participation rates throughout the state, prepares more people for lives of meaning and purpose and will stimulate population growth.

A healthier Kentucky contributes to the economic advance of the country.

We have an opportunity to become the university that is doing more than any other institution in the country for the state that it serves.

We should seize it. We must.

To that end, the President is directed to take the next critical steps in our mission to advance Kentucky by focusing the institution's capacity and strategic efforts on becoming the university that — along with partners — does more than anyone in the country to improve the health of the state that it serves.

The following principles are the first steps in that effort and the Board directs the President and the university to move strategically and quickly in implementing the following measures:

- Develop a specific growth strategy aimed at responding to the health-related workforce needs and shortages in Kentucky. The growth strategy should include capacity needs — in terms of talent and infrastructure — to support these efforts.
- Formally launch and expand statewide the Advancing Kentucky Together Network. This is the evolution of our affiliation model, applied not only to providers but to communities — their holistic health, workforce and education needs.
- Formalize, launch and expand deeper connections with communities, the University, UK HealthCare and UK's Cooperative Extension Service. Extension offices across the state can enhance and expand engagement in the delivery of broad-based health services. But we know we need to communicate better about what they do and what they can do — in and with communities.
- Develop the plan for a second Healthy Kentucky Research Building facility along with the talent necessary to support it. UK's research capacity must expand if we are to advance Kentucky's health. That will require the recruitment and retention of researchers who have attracted external funding and can compete for additional resources that will drive discovery. It will also necessitate a new research facility — co-located with the institution's other health-related research centers — that will support research growth.

The Board of Trustees directs the President to move quickly to develop plans in the areas listed above and report regularly to the Board on expected milestones and areas of progress.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____