

FCR 3

Office of the President
June 13, 2024

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACCEPTANCE OF CHARITABLE GIFT COMMITMENT FROM RICHARD M. ROTHFUSS AND SUBMISSION OF THE GIFT COMMITMENT TO THE COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY RESEARCH CHALLENGE TRUST FUND ENDOWMENT MATCH PROGRAM

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a gift commitment of \$100,000 from Richard M. Rothfuss of Cincinnati, Ohio (the Donor), to create and endow the “Richard M. and Catherine J. Rothfuss Neuroscience Program Support Fund” in the University of Kentucky College of Arts and Sciences and submit this gift for matching funds from the Commonwealth of Kentucky Research Challenge Trust Fund (“RCTF”) Endowment Match Program. Further, pursuant to guidelines approved by the Council on Postsecondary Education, that the Board of Trustees acknowledge its responsibility for UK’s participation in and implementation of the RCTF Endowment Match Program and for providing oversight of all university endowment funds.

Background: The 2022 General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky approved a sixth round of funding for the RCTF Endowment Match Program. UK has been allocated \$20,000,000 of matching state funds for endowments supporting initiatives in the fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health (i.e., STEM+H). Furthermore, the endowments are to support research activities that stimulate business development, increase externally sponsored research, create better jobs and a higher standard of living, and facilitate Kentucky’s transition to a knowledge-based economy. The RCTF Endowment Match Program requires a dollar-for-dollar match of private to public funds at a minimum. To increase the impact of the state funds, UK will match each state dollar with two dollars of private funds. As a result, UK will leverage \$20,000,000 of state funds into \$60,000,000.

The Donor’s gift commitment of \$100,000 will be used to create and endow the “Richard M. and Catherine J. Rothfuss Neuroscience Program Support Fund” in the College of Arts and Sciences, Neuroscience Program. This gift commitment is eligible to be matched by the RCTF Endowment Match Program.

In recognition of the significance of this gift, and with the consent of the Office of the Vice President for Research, it is recommended that the charitable gift commitment be submitted for state matching funds at a ratio of 2:1. As a result, the “Richard and Catherine Rothfuss Neuroscience Program Support Fund” will eventually receive

\$150,000 including \$100,000 from the gift and \$50,000 from the RCTF Endowment Match Program.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____