

FCR 3

Office of the President
September 13, 2024

Members, Board of Trustees:

GIFTS FROM THE ESTATE OF ELIZABETH FRANCES GRUNDY

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept gifts totaling \$2,610,572 from the Estate of Elizabeth Frances Grundy to support the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (the “MGCAFE”) and to establish the “Hugh Lee Grundy Fund for the Support of Aviation, Medicine and Agriculture” (the “Fund”) that will support the Stanley and Karen Pigman College of Engineering (the “SKPCOE”), College of Medicine and MGCAFE. Gifts from the Estate of Elizabeth Frances Grundy include a 640-acre farm located in Washington County, Kentucky, valued at \$2,200,000, and additional cash and non-cash gifts totaling \$410,572.

Background: Hugh Lee Grundy (1916 – 2011) and Elizabeth Frances “Frankie” Grundy (1922 – 2017) were formerly of Springfield, Washington County, Kentucky. Mr. Grundy was an accomplished pilot, ultimately being enshrined in the Aviation Museum of Kentucky Hall of Fame in 2003. Additionally, Mr. Grundy had an illustrious career in service to our country, including, the construction of an Allied supply route through Africa during World War II with the Army Air Corps, and as director of the CIA’s Air America and Air Asia during the 1950’s – 1970’s. After retirement from Air America, he was subsequently senior vice president and later a director of Southern Air Transport.

For 40 years, Hugh Grundy served our country with dedication and discretion. Only when he was honored by Congress and the Central Intelligence Agency in 2001 did his wife Frankie realize his true role. She had accompanied him throughout his career, enduring war and rebellion, thinking he was simply an aviation executive. In fact, he was an invaluable -but secret - asset to America.

The Grundy’s have given the Grundy Farm at Valley Hill to the University, which has been the home of the Grundy family since before 1780. Additionally, the Grundy Family papers (dated 1835 – 2012) can be accessed as part of the collection of the UK Libraries Special Collection. The Fund will be used to support research in the MGCAFE, SKPCOE and College of Medicine.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____