

FCR 3

Office of the President
February 21, 2020

Members, Board of Trustees:

LEASE/PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT AS PART OF THE SMART CAMPUS INITIATIVE

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the lease/purchase of equipment to continue the Smart Campus Initiative.

Background: At its September 2007 meeting, the Board of Trustees delegated to the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration (EVPFA) the responsibility for managing University debt related to the lease/purchase of equipment and information technology items costing less than \$200,000. Acquisitions of major equipment and information technology items costing \$200,000 or more and where the method of procurement involves debt, including capitalized lease obligations, will be submitted to the Board for approval.

At its April 2019 meeting, the Board of Trustees approved the Smart Campus Initiative, a partnership between the University and Apple toward a comprehensive, campus-wide approach to using technology to:

- Refine and optimize student recruitment, retention, and graduation efforts;
- Enhance pedagogy for both in-class and online learning;
- Better prepare underrepresented students for college;
- Increase safety and mental health and well-being among students, faculty, and staff that could be scaled to other audiences and for other uses beyond the campus;
- Leverage access to financial wellness and online learning to increase opportunity for life-long success;
- Enhance student skills in application development with Swift coding; and,
- Assist interventions and programs in health care and, in particular, opioid and substance abuse disorder.

This initiative has been a historic pairing of a leading-edge technology company with a flagship, land-grant institution. Two committees, with broad campus representation, were appointed by the Provost and EVPFA and have served to guide the University's efforts over the course of the last year:

- University of Kentucky Apple Partnership Steering Committee
- University of Kentucky Apple Partnership Academic Advisory Board

The initial phase of the partnership began with issuing 6,100 iPads and accessories in Fall 2019 to all first-year students, faculty, and students in select academic classes. The second phase of the iPad initiative and Apple partnership will continue to level the technological playing field for undergraduate students; enhance pedagogy and innovative learning; and help build skills that prepare UK students for future success.

The University will lease/purchase an additional 7,300 iPads and accessories from Apple for incoming first-year and transfer students enrolled in Fall 2020 and related faculty at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1,500,000. These iPads will include a UK-developed app geared towards first-year students that will ease the transition to the University of Kentucky by providing student-specific community activities, resources, checklists, and easy access to their advisors.

The University will continue to pay the lease on the iPads distributed to students and faculty in fall 2019 at a cost of \$1,324,691. The source of the lease payments is agency funds. The University's Debt Committee reviewed the lease-purchase and assessed the impact on the institutional debt capacity. The Committee has determined that acquisition of these items by lease/purchase is consistent with the University's Debt Policy.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____