

Office of the President
April 26, 2024

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEAN OF THE COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Heather Bush as dean of the College of Public Health, effective April 1, 2024

Background: Dr. Bush earned her bachelor’s degree in mathematics from Mount Vernon Nazarene University, and she earned both her M.S. and Ph.D. in statistics from UK’s College of Arts and Sciences. After working in the industry, she returned to UK in 2006, teaching courses at the undergraduate, graduate and professional levels focused on statistical consulting and applications of biostatistics.

She has served the University and the greater community in numerous ways. As a faculty member in the Center for Research on Violence Against Women and an affiliate of the Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center (KIPRC), she uses bystander-based training to promote violence prevention and harm reduction in college populations. She is also a co-investigator in the HEALing Communities study, a four-year, \$87 million study, the largest grant ever awarded to the University of Kentucky, with the goal of drastically reducing opioid overdose deaths in Kentucky.

During her time as acting dean of the College of Public Health, Dr. Bush has overseen sustained growth of the college’s student population and extramural research funding, furthering the University’s efforts to create positive change for the health needs of communities across Kentucky. She is also a past recipient of the Provost’s Award for Outstanding Teaching and is a University Research Professor.

Her dedication to our students and our community is a testament to the leadership she brings, which will help to nurture our students as they become trailblazers of our Commonwealth’s public health needs as we continue to grow.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____