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Office of the President
December 15, 2020

Members, Board of Trustees:

UNIVERSITY STAFF EMERITUS BE CONFERRED UPON JIM WIMS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees confer upon Jim Wims the title of University Staff Emeritus in recognition of his many years of service, dedication and loyalty to the University of Kentucky.

Background: Jim Wims provided service to the University of Kentucky and the people of the Commonwealth for more than 24 years. Mr. Wims most recently served as the Acting Assistant Vice President for Auxiliary Services. Prior to that he served in numerous leadership roles at UK including interim executive director for the Gatton Student Center, director of Residence Life, interim director of Dining Services, assistant and associate vice president for Student Affairs, interim dean of students and senior assistant provost in the Office of Student and Academic Life.

Jim has demonstrated a deep and committed passion for student support and success throughout his years at the University of Kentucky. He is devoted to making UK's campus the absolute best environment for our community. While Wims served in his various capacities, he collaborated with colleagues across the university and beyond to create a supportive and challenging environment that provides opportunities for student learning, engagement and success. Throughout his career he has been recognized for his primary focus of serving students. His philosophy includes a "take the high road" attitude, coupled with the notion that you should always do the right thing, and students must always be the top priority in any decision-making.

Wims subscribes to the idea that students should be challenged and supported. To this end, he has engaged students in both formal and informal settings by teaching first-year orientation and experiential courses, advising student organizations and mentoring students throughout his career. In addition, he believes strongly in giving back to the university through service, some examples include the President's Commission on Diversity, the Work-Life Task Force, the University Sustainability Committee, the University Safety Committee, the University Commencement Committee, the Employee Benefits Committee, the Dining Service Advisory Committee, the planning and building committee for the Gatton Student Center, and co-chair for the vice president for Student Affairs search committee.

Prior to his time at UK, Wims held student affairs leadership positions at both Kent State University and Lincoln University of Missouri.

In 2004, UK President Lee Todd presented Mr. Wims with the President's Diversity Award. He was credited with recruiting and retaining a highly diverse staff and being an active participant in service work at UK and in the community including, mentoring African American staff and students.

He has dedicated his time, his talents and his faithful service to the University of Kentucky since July 1996. The university will be forever grateful to him for his service to the University of Kentucky and to the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Jim has distinguished himself and brought great distinction to the University of Kentucky and the Commonwealth of Kentucky during his tenure and is truly deserving of the honor of University Staff Emeritus, as conferred by the Board of Trustees.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____