

# PR 4

Office of the President  
October 24, 2015

Members, Board of Trustees:

## APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Mr. William E. Thro as General Counsel effective October 15, 2012.

Background: The General Counsel is responsible for the management and oversight of legal affairs for all programs and divisions of the University and affiliated corporations. The General Counsel reports to the President and advises the President, Board of Trustees, and other administrative officers on all legal matters.

As a senior administrator, Mr. Thro's appointment requires approval of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Thro began his tenure as General Counsel October 15, 2012. Due to administrative error, the appointment was not presented to the Board at that time.

Mr. Thro is an accomplished attorney, academic, and appellate advocate. He has almost a quarter century of experience representing public universities including four years as Solicitor General of Virginia and eight years as University Counsel of Christopher Newport University. He is a past President of the Education Law Association.

As an academic, his research focuses on constitutional law in educational contexts. He serves as an Adjunct Professor in the University of Kentucky College of Law. Mr. Thro has authored or co-authored more than 100 publications, including several peer-reviewed articles. In recognition of his scholarly work, he received Stetson University's Kaplin Award for Excellence in Higher Education Law & Policy Scholarship (2014) and was named a Fellow of both the National Association of College and University Attorneys' (2007), and the National Education Finance Conference (2012).

A native of Elizabethtown, he received his undergraduate degree *summa cum laude* from Hanover College. He earned a graduate degree *with honours* from the University of Melbourne while attending as a Rotary Foundation International Ambassadorial Scholar. His law degree is from the University of Virginia where he was a published member of the VIRGINIA LAW REVIEW and research assistant to constitutional law professor A.E. Dick Howard. He began his legal career as a judicial clerk to the late Judge Ronald E. Meredith of the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Kentucky in Louisville.

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Action taken:     Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_