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Office of the President
May 2, 2017

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF VICE PRESIDENT FOR INSTITUTIONAL DIVERSITY

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Sonja Feist-Price as Vice President for Institutional Diversity, effective March 20, 2017.

Background: In October 2006 the Board of Trustees concluded that the centrality of diversity at the University of Kentucky should be reflected in its administrative structure and created the position of Vice President for Institutional Diversity. The Vice President for Institutional Diversity is the senior administrative officer responsible for promoting collaboration across faculty, staff, administration, and students in earnest pursuit of the University's diversity goals.

Dr. Judy "JJ" Jackson served as UK's first Vice President for Institutional Diversity from March 2008 to June 2015. President Capilouto appointed Associate Vice President for Institutional Equity Terry D. Allen as Interim Vice President in July 2015. In October 2016, President Capilouto appointed a search committee to conduct an internal search to identify qualified persons for the position. One finalist was interviewed on campus by faculty, staff, and students.

Dr. Feist-Price received her doctorate in rehabilitation counseling and administration from Southern Illinois University in 1992 with a specialization in gerontology. In 2006, Dr. Feist-Price completed a Ph.D. in counseling psychology from the University of Kentucky.

Dr. Feist-Price has worked as a vocational rehabilitation counselor serving an injured worker population and individuals with mental illness. She is a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor, a Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor in Kentucky, and a Licensed Psychologist in Kentucky. Her research interests include caregivers of persons with disabilities, HIV prevention, and vocational rehabilitation among veterans with disabilities and ex-offenders with disabilities. She has authored numerous scholarly publications and made invited and refereed presentations at international, national, and regional conference venues. She has been the recipient of awards acknowledging significant contributions to academic research and teaching, including the Rehabilitation Researcher of the Year, Exceptional Researcher of the Year, Teacher Who Made a Difference, and Adult Black Achiever.

Presently, Dr. Feist-Price is the Senior Assistant Provost for Faculty Affairs. Prior to this position, she served as the University's Academic Ombud for three years.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____