Office of the President
February 25, 2003

Members, Board of Trustees

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF OF STAFF TO THE PRESIDENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Phyllis P. Nash as Chief of Staff to the President, effective February 25, 2003.

Background: In December 2002 the position of Chief of Staff to the President was established to be responsible for the efficient operation of the Office of the President, including management of scheduling, staffing and operating procedures. In that capacity, this position provides advice and counsel to the President and reports directly to the President. The Chief of Staff serves as a member of the President’s Executive Staff and works closely and collaboratively with the senior leadership team, the Board of Trustees, executive and administrative colleagues, faculty and student leaders. The Chief of Staff will organize the information flow to and from the Office of the President to ensure that important issues receive the President’s prompt attention. The Chief of Staff briefs the President on policy issues, reviews and analyzes proposals, assists in the process of appointing individuals to various University positions and manages the Office of the President budget. The Chief of Staff represents the President as directed and manages special projects assigned by the President.

Dr. Phyllis Nash holds joint appointments as professor in the Department of Behavioral Science and the Department of Surgery in the College of Medicine at the University of Kentucky. Dr. Nash received her bachelor’s degree in Psychology in 1968 from the University of Kentucky, her master’s degree in social work in 1979 from West Virginia University, and her doctorate in educational psychology with an area of concentration in human communication from West Virginia University in 1985. From 1979 to 1987, she served as a faculty member at West Virginia University School of Medicine in the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry and was granted tenure in 1982. She joined the University of Kentucky College of Medicine as a tenured associate professor of behavioral science in 1988. From 1991 to present, she has held the position of Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs for the University of Kentucky Albert B. Chandler Medical Center.

Dr. Nash’s scholastic interests are in human communication, the psychosocial dimensions of health and illness, psychotherapy, professional education strategies, and the dynamics of teaching and learning. She has pursued these interests in teaching, research, public
and professional service, and in the clinical care for patients. She has been involved in
teaching the behavioral sciences to undergraduate, graduate, and/or professional degree
students in all five of the University of Kentucky Medical Center Colleges.

Her research has been published in academic journals, including Academic Medicine and
Medical Teacher. She also has made numerous presentations at professional conferences.
She has chaired the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations’
Professional-Technical Committee on Mental Health and served on the board of the
Kentucky Chapter of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. She
also has served on numerous committees of the National Association of Social Workers.

Dr. Nash received the YWCA Women of Achievement Award in 1996 and has been
recognized by the Golden Key Honor Society and Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership
Honorary. She also has won the Award for Excellence in Education in Surgery. She is a
member of the National Association of Social Workers.

Dr. Nash has tremendous organizational skills and will be an asset in assisting the
President.

Action taken:  ✓ Approved   □ Disapproved   □ Other ________________________