Office of the President  
March 7, 2006

Members, Board of Trustees:

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE  
LOUIE B. NUNN CENTER FOR ORAL HISTORY

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History in the University of Kentucky Libraries, effective immediately.

Background: For over thirty years the University of Kentucky has sought to build one of the finest and most thorough oral history collections for modern political and public policy research in the United States. These interviews help to document politics and the development of U.S. governmental policy during the past century and have proven invaluable to undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and independent scholars researching American politics and government. The collections are impressive in both the number of interviews and content, but it is the research value of these collections that remains most impressive.

Oral history projects have documented important public policy issues including Kentucky education reform, Kentucky conservation, coal mining, broadcasting in Kentucky, the civil rights movement, a history of Kentucky mayors, a history of the Kentucky General Assembly, and a history of the Lexington Urban League.

The proposed Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History will be an integral part of the University of Kentucky Libraries under the administration of the Dean of Libraries. Over the past thirty-three years the Oral History Program has worked closely with UK faculty across the campus. An advisory committee comprised of UK faculty and staff will be assembled to assure that a close working relationship with faculty continues with the center.

The establishment of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History recognizes and honors the late Governor Nunn and his life-long devotion to the betterment of Kentucky and its people. It will be a lasting tribute to Governor Nunn’s years of public service and his commitment to supporting UK’s Oral History efforts.

The proposal is supported and has been endorsed by the Senate Council and University Senate. The interim provost of the university also supports this recommendation.

Action taken: ✔ Approved   ☐ Disapproved   ☐ Other ________________________