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Office of the President
March 19, 2013

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding the degree of Honorary Doctor of Humanities to Deborah A.P. Hersman, Honorary Doctor of Science to Robert Milton Huffaker, and Honorary Doctor of Humanities to Jamal L. Mashburn as approved and recommended by the University Faculty.

Background: Pursuant to the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees, the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees has recommended to the elected Faculty Senators that the specified honorary degree be awarded to Deborah A.L. Hersman, Robert Milton Huffaker and Jamal L. Mashburn. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the recipients are attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

Deborah A. P. Hersman

Deborah Hersman, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, is recognized as one of the nation's most visionary and passionate safety leaders who advocates for safety across all modes of transportation. Among her many initiatives, Hersman has focused attention and actions on distracted driving, child passenger safety, and helping accident victims and their families. She emphasizes the NTSB's role as "the conscience and the compass of the transportation industry."

Chairman Hersman has been the board member on scene for 19 major transportation accidents, chaired scores of NTSB hearings, forums and events, and regularly testifies before Congress. Her leadership has created a more transparent and accountable organization. Hersman has significantly increased the quantity and quality of NTSB information available on the agency's website, held more public meetings to highlight safety issues, and embraced social media to communicate with stakeholders and citizens.

She has overseen the timely completion of several high-profile accident investigations during her tenure as chair. Prior to taking over as chair, Hersman was the steady and compassionate face and voice of the NTSB in the immediate aftermath of one of the worst disasters in Kentucky's history, the crash of Comair Flight 5191 while it attempted to take off from Blue Grass Airport in 2006. Families and friends of the 49 people who died in the tragedy will never forget her deep empathy, her calming manner, and genuine concern for all those impacted by the accident. In the weeks, months, and years that followed, she made a special point of staying connected to Lexingtonians and Kentuckians, doing everything she could to help in the healing process.

The NTSB is recognized internationally as a preeminent accident investigation organization. Hersman serves as the chief executive of the agency, which has 400-plus employees and an annual budget of more than \$100 million.

Hersman was first appointed as a board member by President Bush in 2004 and reappointed to a second five-year term by President Obama. Appointed chairman by President Obama in 2009 and 2011 with unanimous Senate confirmation votes, she is now serving her second term.

Previously, Hersman served as a senior advisor to the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation from 1999 to 2004. She also was staff director and senior legislative aide to West Virginia Congressman Bob Wise from 1992 to 1999.

Her efforts contributed to the passage of milestone bills such as the Motor Carrier Safety Improvement Act of 1999, the Pipeline Safety Improvement Act of 2002, Transportation Equity Act of the 21st Century, and the Amtrak Reform and Accountability Act.

Chairman Hersman received B.A. degrees in political science and international studies from Virginia Tech, and a master's degree in conflict analysis and resolution from George Mason University. She holds a commercial driver's license with passenger, school bus, and air brake endorsements, as well as a motorcycle endorsement.

Deborah A.P. Hersman is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from the University of Kentucky.

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Robert Milton Huffaker

Robert Milton Huffaker, a native of Wayne County, Kentucky, has spent more than a half century in a varied and distinguished career as a physicist, a company founder and CEO, and a philanthropist positively impacting a number of charitable activities and organizations in the United States and abroad.

After earning his Bachelor of Science in physics at the University of Kentucky in 1957, Huffaker pursued graduate studies at UK before accepting a position at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center where he worked for 15 years beginning in 1961. He rose to become chief of the Physics Section and project manager, directing programs in specifying the thermal environment of the Saturn launch vehicles, as well as areas in lunar physics involving re-entry fluid mechanics. Later, Huffaker initiated and directed the development of laser Doppler systems for aerodynamic applications.

Huffaker moved to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration as project manager in 1976. During his eight years at NOAA, the design of space-based systems for global wind field mapping was established. And, the first ground-based, three-dimensional wind field measurement system was developed using coherent laser radar technology.

In 1984, Huffaker founded Coherent Technologies, Incorporated (CTI) to develop Doppler laser radar technology and systems for meteorological and military applications. CTI pioneered numerous achievements in coherent laser radar and over the next two decades, grew at an average rate of 30 percent per year before being acquired by Lockheed Martin Company in 2005.

In 2006, Huffaker founded Coherent Investments, LLC, where he serves as manager. Coherent Investments provides guidance, support, and capital in order to assist companies that are in their early stages of development.

The recipient of numerous awards, Huffaker was inducted into the UK College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Hall of Fame in 2008. He has been a prolific contributor to the advancement of the field of physics, with many highly regarded and well-read scientific publications and papers.

Always eager to help others, Huffaker co-founded the Second Step Program of the Emergency Family Assistance Association in the mid-1980s. The Colorado resident also is founder and chair of the board of the Forward Steps Foundation, a public charity which supports the population of youth between the ages of 18 and 21 emerging from

the Colorado Foster Care System. In addition, he is founder and chair of the Realizing Aptitudes Foundation that assists high school and beginning college students with career guidance. While devoting his time and sharing his expertise in these various efforts, Huffaker also has donated well over \$3 million to these and other nonprofit agencies.

Robert Milton Huffaker is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the University of Kentucky.

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Jamal Mashburn

Jamal Mashburn is best known for his success on the basketball court. An All-America selection at the University of Kentucky, Mashburn helped lead the Wildcats to the NCAA Final Four in 1993. He then went on to play for more than a decade in the NBA with the Dallas Mavericks, Miami Heat, and New Orleans Hornets. Mashburn dribbled, dunked, and dazzled fans, reaching All-Star status in the pros. Yet, before Jamal ever set foot on the NBA hardwood, he was already preparing for his life after basketball.

With a natural knack for teambuilding, Mashburn took his skills straight to the business world without missing a beat. He successfully assembled a team of savvy professionals specializing in administration, finance, project management, insurance, and advertising. This team quickly developed an ownership model that resulted in an impressive business portfolio. To date, Mashburn -- the entrepreneur -- has ownership interest in numerous restaurant franchises -- 38 Outback Steakhouse restaurants, 39 Papa John's pizza restaurants, and three Dunkin' Donuts stores. He also owns car dealerships -- Kentucky's Toyota on Nicholasville and Lexus Store of Lexington -- along with real estate and thoroughbred race horses. In his 'spare' time, Mashburn even served as an ESPN on-air NBA analyst from 2006 to 2010.

Extremely civic minded, Mashburn is committed to helping others and giving back to the community. In 1993, before he ever signed his first professional basketball contract, he donated \$500,000 to establish and endow the Jamal Mashburn Scholarship Fund at the University of Kentucky. The scholarship identifies ninth grade students in the Lexington, area, tracks them through high school, and then awards them a full scholarship to attend the University of Kentucky or Bluegrass Community and Technical College provided they achieve their academic and personal goals.

Mashburn also is a founding member, officer, and director of The MAP Foundation, focused on youth mentoring, and The Mashburn Family Foundation. This foundation offers program and support for latch-key children, as well as for children of alcoholics and single mothers. Both of these foundations are nonprofit 501(c)(3) corporations.

Mashburn currently sits on the Board of Directors for the National Forest Foundation and previously served on the Advisory Board for Central Bank and Trust Company in Lexington. He also makes sure that each of his businesses actively participates in their local communities by way of donations to various charitable organizations.

Having made the most of the opportunities afforded to him, Mashburn now encourages others to embrace his team-first attitude, helping them achieve success in business, and in life.

Jamal Mashburn is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Humanities degree from the University of Kentucky.

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