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Office of the President
March 6, 2007

Members, Board of Trustees:

CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NEUROSURGERY

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the creation of the Department of Neurosurgery by separating the current Division of Neurosurgery from the Department of Surgery, effective July 1.

Background: This proposal received initial impetus from the strategic planning process initiated by the executive vice president for health affairs, resulting in a recommendation that Neurosciences be a focus of clinical expansion and that the creation of a freestanding department of neurosurgery was material to that expansion. An ad hoc committee appointed by the dean of the College of Medicine to examine the status of the Division of Neurosurgery recommended that the college proceed with the internal process of creating the Department of Neurosurgery, taking cognizance of the impact on the Department of Surgery.

When last surveyed, 82 percent of U.S. allopathic medical schools had freestanding departments of neurosurgery. Given that this is the standard, the importance to the College of Medicine in joining these ranks centers largely around the ability to recruit academic neurosurgical faculty and leadership.   Faculty and future chairs will have the expectation in considering positions at the University of Kentucky that programming and priorities will be theirs to develop in conjunction with college and university leadership, rather than through the filter of a parent surgical department. The college, UK HealthCare, and the university must be competitive in its structure when competing for the best neurosurgical faculty.

The proposed change has been approved by the faculty in the department and the Faculty Council of the College of Medicine; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council; and recommended by the University Senate. The provost and the dean of the College of Medicine of the university support this recommendation.

Action taken: ☑ Approved   ❑ Disapproved   ❑ Other _____