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Office of the President
March 4, 2008

Members, Board of Trustees:

NAMING OF UNIVERSITY BUILDING – POLK-DALTON CLINIC

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the renaming of UK HealthCare's Kentucky Clinic North to the Polk-Dalton Clinic.

Background: Kentucky Clinic North was established by the University of Kentucky healthcare system in the late 1990s to provide quality care in a medically underserved area of downtown Lexington. The community-oriented clinic first served the area from an interim site on Third Street before the new facility was opened on Elm Street in 2000.

The clinic sought to follow the pioneering path of two African American physicians who answered the call to serve the medical needs of Lexington's downtown community.

Dr. John Polk of Midway, Kentucky established his medical practice at 166 DeWeese Street in Lexington, Kentucky shortly after graduating from Howard University Medical School in 1918. The son of Reverend James K. Polk, a well-known Baptist preacher in Woodford County, Dr. Polk later founded Polk's Infirmary at 148 DeWeese Street in 1920. Dr. Polk provided routine medical care, minor operations, and overnight supervision at the Infirmary. Dr. Polk was a highly accomplished surgeon and was one of only four black physicians with operating room privileges at Good Samaritan and St. Joseph's hospitals. Dr. Polk operated the Infirmary until his death in 1936.

Around 1940, Dr. Rufus Dalton of Georgetown, Kentucky reopened Polk's clinic, directing the clinic until his death in September 1953.

Polk's Infirmary was more than just a medical facility. It served as the centerpiece for Lexington's African American community. The historic structure is presently the headquarters for the Lexington-Fayette County Urban League.

UK HealthCare is privileged to continue the proud tradition of healthcare excellence in downtown Lexington, while remembering the physicians who helped blaze that trail. It is in their honor that we rename Kentucky Clinic North the Polk-Dalton Clinic.

The Committee on Naming University Buildings has reviewed the request and found it to be in compliance with university policy AR II-1.1-6 and unanimously recommended approval of this name change.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____