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Office of the President
June 14, 2011

Members, Board of Trustees:

CREATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF OTOLARYNGOLOGY – HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the creation of the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery in the College of Medicine, effective July 1, 2011.

Background: When the Division of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery was founded in 1988, most Otolaryngology programs in the United States were divisions of a large, unified Department of Surgery. Medicine has changed dramatically so that surgeons of different specialties have much less in common with one another than they did in the past. As subspecialization has increased, there has been less and less overlap with other surgical services and otolaryngology has assumed the clear leadership role in the management of head and neck oncology in addition to its more traditional areas of nasal, sinus, ear, and throat disorders. As the practice of the various specialties has diversified, the areas of commonality have lessened.

In August 2010 the Dean of the College of Medicine appointed a committee to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the Otolaryngology program, suggest strategies to improve the program and recommend whether or not Otolaryngology should remain a division of surgery or become an independent department. The committee unanimously recommended that Otolaryngology become a department and believes that such a move would be another step in helping the University of Kentucky and the College of Medicine to achieve top 20 status.

The proposal for the new department has been approved by the College of Medicine Faculty Council; reviewed and recommended by the Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure and the Senate Council; and recommended by the University Senate. The provost of the University supports this recommendation.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____