

# FCR 14

Office of the President  
April 30, 2019

Members, Board of Trustees:

## LEASE/PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE SMART CAMPUS INITIATIVE

**Recommendation:** that the Board of Trustees approve the lease/purchase of equipment for implementation of the Smart Campus Initiative.

**Background:** At its September 2007 meeting, the Board of Trustees delegated to the Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration (EVPFA) the responsibility for managing University debt related to the lease/purchase of equipment and information technology items costing less than \$200,000. Acquisitions of major equipment and information technology items costing \$200,000 or more and where the method of procurement involves debt, including capitalized lease obligations, will be submitted to the Board for approval.

The University and Apple are partnering to launch a Smart Campus Initiative – a comprehensive, campus-wide approach to using technology to:

- Refine and optimize student recruitment, retention, and graduation efforts;
- Enhance pedagogy for both in-class and online learning;
- Better prepare underrepresented students for college;
- Increase safety and mental health and well-being among students, faculty, and staff that could be scaled to other audiences and for other uses beyond the campus;
- Leverage access to financial wellness and online learning to increase opportunity for life-long success;
- Enhance student skills in application development with Swift coding; and,
- Assist interventions and programs in health care and, in particular, around opioid and substance abuse disorder.

This initiative is a historic pairing of a leading-edge technology company with a flagship, land-grant institution. Two committees, with broad campus representation, have been appointed by the Provost and EVPFA to help guide the University's efforts going forward:

- University of Kentucky Apple Partnership Steering Committee
- University of Kentucky Apple Partnership Academic Advisory Board

The initial phase of the partnership begins with issuing iPads and accessories in Fall 2019 to all first-year students; and faculty and students in select academic classes. In May, select members of the committees, including three students, are traveling to Apple's Enterprise Design Lab to design an iOS app to help students transition into life at the University of Kentucky.

The University will lease/purchase approximately 5,900 iPads and accessories from Apple at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1,500,000 for the first year. The source is agency funds. The University's Debt Committee has reviewed the lease-purchase and assessed the impact on the institutional debt capacity and determined that acquisition of these items by lease/purchase is consistent with the University's Debt Policy.

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Action taken:  Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_