

# PR 3

Office of the President  
June 22, 2018

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF THE DEAN OF GATTON COLLEGE OF BUSINESS  
AND ECONOMICS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. Simon J. Sheather as Dean of the Gatton College of Business and Economics, effective July 1, 2018.

Background: In January 2018, Gatton College of Business and Economics Dean David Blackwell assumed the role of Provost at the University of Kentucky. Immediately, Provost Blackwell appointed a search committee composed of administrators, deans, faculty, and staff to conduct a national search to identify qualified candidates for the position. Finalists were interviewed on campus in Spring 2018, and Dr. Sheather was selected as the preferred candidate.

A native of Australia, Sheather received numerous awards for his teaching, research, and mentorship during an 18-year tenure at the Australian Graduate School of Management, part of the University of New South Wales. Upon joining the faculty at Texas A&M in 2005, Sheather served as Chair of the Department of Statistics for nine years. While at Texas A&M, he personally built two professional master's programs, both of which make innovative use of technology. In addition, he led philanthropic efforts, which raised substantial funds from alumni and companies.

Sheather has extensive experience working with industry and government developing practical predictive models for big data.

Sheather graduated with 1<sup>st</sup> Class Honours in mathematical statistics from the University of Melbourne, before earning his Ph.D. in statistics from La Trobe University, also located in Australia. His academic career includes visiting professorships at Pennsylvania State University and the Stern School of Business at New York University.

He will succeed longtime Gatton marketing faculty member Steve Skinner, who has been serving as the College's interim dean since January 2018.

---

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