

FCR 19

Office of the President
March 28, 2023

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 the continuation of the Smart Campus iPad 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 Smart Campus Initiative – a comprehensive, campus-wide approach to using technology – will continue the partnership with Apple by purchasing another year of iPad technology aimed to:

- Refine and optimize student recruitment, retention and graduation efforts;
- Improve and enhance pedagogy for both in-class and online learning for students and faculty;
- Better prepare and equip 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 and;
- Assist interventions and programs in healthcare.

The fifth phase of the iPad initiative and Apple partnership will continue to level the technological playing field for all students; enhance pedagogy and innovative learning; and help build skills that set our students up for future success. For the fifth phase, the university will lease/purchase approximately 7,000 iPad kits (iPad Air, pencil and keyboard) at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1,800,000 per year. The source is agency funds.

For fiscal year 2023-24, the university will continue to pay the lease on the iPads that were distributed to freshman and faculty in Fall 2020, Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 at a total cost of \$4,099,471.25. The university's Debt Management Committee has reviewed the

lease-purchase and assessed the impact on the institution's debt capacity and determined that acquisition of these items by lease/purchase is consistent with the university's Debt Policy.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other_____