

FCR 1

Office of the President
April 23, 2026

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACCEPTANCE OF CHARITABLE GRANT FROM THE BILL GATTON FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a charitable grant totaling \$5,000,000 from The Bill Gatton Foundation to support student scholarships through the “Bill Gatton Scholarship Program” at the University of Kentucky.

Background: C. M. “Bill” Gatton of Bristol, Tennessee (1932-2022) established the Bill Gatton Foundation in 1985. Mr. Gatton earned his Bachelor of Science in Commerce from the University of Kentucky (UK) in 1954 and Master of Business Administration from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He was an honorary member of the UK Board of Trustees, a member of the UK Hall of Distinguished Alumni and a member of the Hall of Fame of the Gatton College of Business and Economics. This charitable grant continues Mr. Gatton’s faith in UK’s ability to improve lives through excellence in education, research and creative work, service and health care.

This grant will support the “Bill Gatton Scholarship Program,” launched in 2022. This scholarship program provides scholarships based on merit or need for undergraduate, graduate and College of Medicine students from Kentucky.

Since its inception, the Bill Gatton Scholarship Program has awarded nearly 3,500 scholarships to undergraduate and medical students. The majority of these scholarships have been through the UK LEADS (Leveraging Economic Affordability for Developing Success) program, a nationally recognized program for supporting students whose primary barrier to success is financial need, providing targeted scholarships and aid based on data-informed analytics. The program has reached students from 119 counties across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The foundation’s contributions to the fund now total \$25,100,000.

Mr. Gatton and the Bill Gatton Foundation are now the University of Kentucky’s largest private donors.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____