

FCR 3

Office of the President
April 23, 2026

Members, Board of Trustees:

ACCEPTANCE OF CHARITABLE GRANT COMMITMENT FROM
ALTRIA CLIENT SERVICES, LLC, TO BENEFIT THE
MARTIN-GATTON COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD AND ENVIRONMENT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees accept a charitable grant commitment totaling \$2,000,000 from Altria Client Services, LLC (Altria), to establish and support an endowed chair fund named the “Endowed Chair in Tobacco Growers Sustainability” in the Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment (M-G CAFE). The Chair shall be a permanent position in M-G CAFE for a faculty member whose work supports tobacco grower sustainability and the tobacco industry through scholarly focus and extension outreach on tobacco agronomic production and utilization.

Background: Altria, a leader in the industry, is committed to responsibly sourcing tobacco with a proven track record of building sustainable tobacco supply chains with a focus on crop, environment and labor management. Altria proactively engages with key agricultural industry and research partners to collaborate on emerging trends in the tobacco growing community and to encourage responsible farming practices, both in the United States and internationally.

Altria’s support for targeted, tobacco-related agricultural research funding at the University significantly impacts the advancement and success of Kentucky’s tobacco economy.

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____