

FCR 9

Office of the President
April 23, 2026

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 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, 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 seventh 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 seventh phase, the University will lease/purchase approximately 7,500 iPad kits (iPad Air, pencil and keyboard) at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1,900,000 using agency funds.

The University will continue to pay the lease on the iPads that were distributed to Freshman in Fall 2023, Fall 2024 and Fall 2025 at a total cost of \$4,976,400. 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.

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____