

FCR 1

Office of the President
September 12, 2025

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: The Bill Gatton Foundation was established in 1985 by C.M. “Bill” Gatton of Bristol, Tennessee (1932-2022). 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 a board member of the UK Board of Trustees before he became an honorary member of the board, 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 (the “Grant”) is a continuation of 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 be used to support the “Bill Gatton Scholarship Program,” (the “Program”) which was launched in 2022. This coming fall, the Grant will provide merit-based and need-based scholarships to eligible undergraduate students and merit-based scholarships to eligible graduate and medical students.

To date, the Program has awarded 139 merit-based scholarships to undergraduate students, 158 merit-based scholarships to medical students, and 2,416 need-based scholarships to undergraduate students through the UK LEADS initiative (Leveraging Economic Affordability for Developing Success). The Program has reached students from 119 counties across the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Mr. Gatton and The Bill Gatton Foundation remain the largest private donors in UK’s history.

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____