

FCR 1

Office of the President
February 19, 2021

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 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;
- Enhance pedagogy for both in-class and online learning;
- Better prepare 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 the opportunity for life-long success;
- Enhance student skills in application development with Swift coding; and,
- Assist interventions and programs in health care.

The third 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. The iPad provided to students will include a UK-developed app geared towards our freshmen audience which will ease the transition to the University of Kentucky by providing student-specific community activities, resources, checklists and access to their success team.

The university will continue to pay the lease on the iPads that were distributed to first-year students in Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 at a total cost of \$2,623,574. The university will lease/purchase an additional 7,500 iPad kits (iPad Air, pencil and keyboard) from Apple

at an estimated cost not to exceed \$1,600,000. The source is agency funds. 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 _____