

FCR 21

Office of the President
June 13, 2025

Members, Board of Trustees:

CONSTRUCT KROGER FIELD FAN EXPERIENCE DISTRICT CAPITAL PROJECT

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees support and approve the pursuit of legislative authority from the Commonwealth of Kentucky for the Construct Kroger Field Fan Experience District capital project and authorize the President, or his designee, to negotiate and execute all documents necessary to create a viable Public-Private Partnership (P3).

Background: Pursuant to Administrative Regulation 8:2, any capital project with an estimated cost of \$1,000,000 or more must be approved by the Board prior to initiation.

The University plans to seek market guidance as a preliminary step in developing a fan experience district near Kroger Field, which would serve the University community and the Commonwealth year-round. This project will create a mixed-use entertainment district on the campus, akin to similar projects in other college athletics venues as well as professional sports. Examples of mixed uses may include hotel(s), dining options, event and conference space, and additional retail. The District will enhance the overall UK fan experience, maximize the commercial potential of UK Athletics facilities, and support the University community and the Commonwealth throughout the year. The project is part of the multi-year plan designed to enable the athletics enterprise to produce the necessary revenue to ensure a strong financial trajectory.

The P3 strategy is appropriate for this project given the University's desire to enhance the fan experience and support the University and the Commonwealth, including speed to market and providing first-class venue space.

The University will seek legislative authorization for this capital project from the 2026 Session of the Kentucky General Assembly. Upon receipt of Board approval and the necessary legislative authorizations, an agreement that is in the best interests of the University and the Commonwealth between the University and its selected P3 partner is expected to be negotiated and executed. In accordance with the Internal Loan Program Policy, the Debt Management Committee has reviewed and approved this recommendation.

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other_____