

FCR 8

Office of the President
February 18, 2022

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 (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.

Through the Smart Campus Initiative – a comprehensive, campus-wide approach to using technology - the university 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;
- 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 health care.

This fourth 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 university will continue to pay the lease on the iPads that were distributed to freshman in Fall 2019, Fall 2020 and Fall 2021 at a total cost of \$4,193,844. With this approval, the university will lease/purchase an additional 5,500 iPad kits (iPad Air, pencil and keyboard) from Apple at an estimated annual cost not to exceed \$1,500,000. The source of funds is agency funds. The university's Debt Management 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 _____