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Office of the President
February 23, 2018

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT OF THE PROVOST

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointment of Dr. David W. Blackwell as Provost, effective January 8, 2018.

Background: In November 2017, Provost Tim Tracy announced his intention to resign from the role of Provost at the University of Kentucky, effective December 31, 2017, to become Chief Executive Officer of Aprecia Pharmaceuticals. The following week, President Capilouto appointed a search committee composed of administrators, deans, faculty, and staff to conduct an internal search to identify qualified candidates for the position. Two finalists were interviewed on campus in December 2017.

Born in Alabama, Provost Blackwell graduated from Fort Campbell High School in Kentucky while his father was stationed there with the U.S. Army. He graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in economics and Ph.D. in finance, both from the University of Tennessee. He is an author of numerous research publications and the co-author of two books.

Provost Blackwell served as dean of the Gatton College of Business and Economics from 2012-2018. In that capacity, he led the fundraising efforts toward a \$65 million expansion and renovation of the Gatton College facility, considered one of the premier business education facilities in the country. The initiative was funded completely with private dollars. Also during his tenure, the college dramatically increased its enrollment and the number of faculty members contributing to the ethnic, racial, and gender diversity of the college.

Before joining the UK family, he served as the Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and Republic Bank/James W. Aston Professor of Finance at Texas A&M University's Mays Business School. Before joining Texas A&M, Provost Blackwell served as a Director in KPMG's Forensic practice and as a Director in PricewaterhouseCoopers' Financial Advisory Services practice. Before his consulting career, he served as a Finance professor for 13 years, teaching at Emory University's Goizueta Business School in Atlanta, the University of Georgia, the University of Houston, and the University of Rochester's William E. Simon School of Business Administration.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____