

Office of the President  
May 4, 2021

Members, Board of Trustees:

UNIVERSITY STAFF EMERITUS BE CONFERRED UPON ADRIENNE MCMAHAN

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees confer upon Adrienne McMahan the title of University Staff Emeritus in recognition of her many years of service, dedication and loyalty to the University of Kentucky.

Background: Adrienne McMahan provided service to the University of Kentucky and the people of the Commonwealth for more than 47 years. Ms. McMahan most recently served as the Assistant Vice President for Special Projects in the Office for Student Success. Prior to that, she served in numerous leadership roles at UK including Graduate School Admissions Officer, Program Coordinator for UK Community Education, Director of the UK Downtown Training Center, Assistant Provost for Student and Academic Support in the Division of Student and Academic Life, and, for 23 years, Assistant Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Adrienne has demonstrated a deep and committed passion for student support and success throughout her years at the University of Kentucky. She has been devoted to supporting students in all aspects of their lives. In her many years as Assistant Dean in the College of Arts and Sciences, she was the chief advisor to the Dean regarding undergraduate student affairs and she directed college-wide advising. She provided leadership for multiple Living-Learning Programs (LLP) in the residence halls. These programs included environmental sustainability, social justice, Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education, and the first digital and liberal arts LLP which incorporated technology into the classroom and provided iPads for all students.

A long-time member of the National Academic Advising Association, Adrienne has received national awards and presented on academic advising around the world. Once she moved into central administration, Adrienne worked with Associate Deans for Undergraduate Education from all colleges and other academic leaders to develop a consistent and coordinated approach to academic advising. She oversaw many secondary advisors, pre-professional and exploratory advising, the career center, experiential learning, first-generation student services, off-campus advising, and parent and family programs. In all these areas, Adrienne's committed leadership provided support for students throughout the institution. As an example of this commitment, during her final year at UK, she managed a campus-wide call campaign in which over 30,000 students received a personal phone call from a UK staff member to provide support as they navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Adrienne subscribes to the idea that students come first in all decisions and that staff members give all they have to help students succeed. She believes strongly in giving back to the university through service and has demonstrated this through her work with the living-learning programs, teaching first-year orientation and experiential courses, and participating in over 40 university committees, including the Institutional Diversity Committee, the UK Employee Advisory Council, the Equal Opportunity Committee, and the First-Year Experience Committee.

Adrienne McMahan has spent her entire, distinguished career at the University of Kentucky. She has dedicated her time, talents, leadership, and faithful service to UK since the early 1970s, benefiting generations of students during this time. She holds all her academic degrees from the institution, working her way through school at the University with an associates, bachelors, masters and completing all her doctorate coursework. She is the final recipient of the Paul Nestor Award, which was the University's exemplary staff award. This community is stronger because of the indelible mark she has made, and the university will be forever grateful for her service.

Adrienne McMahan has exemplified the idea of doing more and being more for the University of Kentucky and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. She is truly deserving of the honor of University Staff Emeritus, as conferred by the Board of Trustees.

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Action taken:  Approved     Disapproved     Other \_\_\_\_\_