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Office of the President
June 30, 2026

Members, Board of Trustees:

APPOINTMENT/REAPPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF DIRECTORS
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY HUMANITIES FOUNDATION, INC.

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the appointments of James Clark and Wendy L. Jackson to the Board of Directors of the University of Kentucky Humanities Foundation, Inc. and the reappointments of Jay Varellas, Scott Shapiro and Josh Santana.

Background: The management of the affairs of the Foundation shall be vested in a Board of Directors whose membership shall consist of at least fifteen members, one of whom shall be the President of the University of Kentucky; one of whom shall be the Provost of the University of Kentucky; one of whom shall be the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; one of whom shall be the Dean of the Lewis Honors College; one of whom shall be an alumnus of the Gaines Center Fellowship Program; one of whom shall be a Gaines Fellow who will serve in his or her senior (second) year; and up to two of whom shall be individuals designated by the family of John R. and Joan B. Gaines. The remaining ten members of the Board of Directors shall be appointed from the public-at-large.

These appointments require approval by the Board of Trustees in accordance with the Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws for the University of Kentucky Humanities Foundation, Inc. These nominations are supported by the President and Provost.

Biographical sketches of the appointment and reappointments with terms are attached.

Action taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____

Biographical Sketches

UK Humanities Foundation, Inc.

James M. Clark is the Executive Director of the Henry Clay Memorial Foundation with a demonstrated history of working in the museums and institutions industry. Skilled in cultural heritage, fundraising, community engagement, change management and interpersonal communication. He earned a Bachelor of Science with a specialization in Urban Studies from the University of Southern California and a master's degree focused on Public Policy Analysis from New York University. His term will begin July 1, 2026, and will serve until July 1, 2029.

Wendy L. Jackson is a Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology with specialized expertise in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Biology from Kentucky State University, followed by her Doctor of Medicine degree and residency training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Kentucky. She further advanced her clinical expertise through training in Pediatric and Adolescent Gynecology at the University of Louisville. Her term will begin July 1, 2026, and will serve until July 1, 2029.

Joshua Santana is a founding partner at Santana and Fay, LLC, a law firm based in Lexington, Kentucky. With a diverse litigation practice spanning environmental law, insurance defense, and workers' compensation, he represented clients across the state and nationwide. In addition, he maintains active ties to the local academic community, including involvement with Central Music Academy. He has served on the UK Humanities Foundation, Inc. Board since 2005 and will be reappointed to serve until 2029.

Scott Shapiro is an urban developer and consultant who served as the Chief Innovation Officer for former Lexington Mayor Jim Gray, where he spearheaded major city initiatives like pension reform and transforming Lexington into a gigabit city through a sweeping fiber-optic project. He holds a Master of Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School and has taught courses on city innovation at the University of Kentucky. Currently, Shapiro is building Midland Station, a major mixed-use infill-housing development in downtown Lexington. He has served on the UK Humanities Foundation, Inc. Board since 2017 and will be reappointed to serve until 2031.

James J. ("Jay") Varellas III is an attorney at Varellas & Varellas in Lexington, Kentucky, where he leads the firm's class action practice and handles complex civil litigation. Prior to returning to his native Lexington, he practiced commercial litigation at firms in New York and San Francisco and served as a federal law clerk in Kentucky. An alumnus of the University of Kentucky, where he was a Gaines Fellow and Truman Scholar, he earned his J.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, School of Law. He has served on the UK Humanities Foundation, Inc. Board since 2008 and will be reappointed to serve until 2033.