

PR 8

Office of the President
October 21, 2016

Members, Board of Trustees:

ESTABLISHMENT OF THE
JOHN H. SCHNATTER INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF FREE ENTERPRISE

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve the establishment of the John H. Schnatter Institute for the Study of Free Enterprise in the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

Background: At its December 2015 meeting, the Board of Trustees accepted a charitable grant commitment of \$6,000,000 from the John H. Schnatter Family Foundation and a \$4,000,000 charitable grant commitment from the Charles Koch Foundation (for a total commitment of \$10,000,000) to create the John H. Schnatter Institute for the Study of Free Enterprise in the Gatton College of Business and Economics.

Per FCR 8 and FCR 9 of the December 2015 meeting, “the mission of the Institute is to discover and understand aspects of free enterprise that promote the well-being of society.” The funding commitment will enable the Gatton College to hire additional tenured and tenure-track faculty, lecturers, research associates, and administrative support, along with offering up to 13 Ph.D. fellowships, all working within the Institute’s stated mission.

Building on over 10 years of research and outreach activities by various faculty members in the Gatton College related to the study of capitalism and free enterprise, the Institute will be a “multidisciplinary research center” and will house, enhance, and promote activities that support research, teaching, and community outreach. It also will further broaden perspectives regarding economics, economic history, public policy, and the law. Similar to other institutes with the Gatton College, the Institute will report to the Dean.

The Senate Committee on Academic Organization and Structure (SAOSC) recommended and the University Senate approved the proposal based on academic merits and voted to require at the halfway point of the Foundation support (September 2019) a review by the University Senate in collaboration with the Provost, of the program’s progress in scholarship and its mandate to safeguard academic freedom. The SAOSC recommended but the University Senate did not endorse the administrative structure and funding of the Institute.

The faculty and the Dean of the Gatton College, the Vice President for Research, the Provost, and the President of the University support the establishment of the Institute.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____