



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

October 23, 2020

Jody Richards Hall – Regents Room / Zoom

**AUTHORIZATION TO GRANT AN EASEMENT TO
WARREN COUNTY WATER DISTRICT**

REQUEST:

The President requests that the Board authorize the University to convey an easement to Warren County Water District across property owned by the university located on Elrod Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky.

FACTS:

Warren County Water District wishes to replace end-of-life equipment located in the Elrod Road easement adjacent to the WKU Ag-Farm. WCWD would like to use a 50' x 50' area of adjacent Ag Farm property to install the replacement equipment to take advantage of the existing infrastructure in the area to minimize costs. The placement of the new sewer lift station will take into account potential future improvements to the Ag Farm property, including previously discussed KYTC enhancements to Elrod Road. WCWD will be responsible for replacing affected livestock fencing, providing their own security fencing, and maintaining the area in the enclosure as well as between the security fence and replacement livestock fencing.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

None.

RECOMMENDATION:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends that the Board of Regents approve the request for the University to take appropriate action to convey an easement to Warren County Water District across property owned by the University located on Elrod Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky, as identified in the project drawing included with the Board agenda material.

MOTION:

Approval that the Board authorize the University to take appropriate action to convey an easement to Warren County Water District across property owned by the university located on Elrod Road, Bowling Green, Kentucky, as identified in the project drawing included with the Board agenda material.

**HONORARY NAMING REQUEST FOR
JULIE AND GARY RANSELL LIVING AND LEARNING COMMUNITY
AT LIFEWORKS AT WKU**

REQUEST:

Approval of the honorific naming of the LifeWorks at WKU housing campus and learning center as the *Julie and Gary Ransdell Living and Learning Community* in recognition of their leadership on the concept.

FACTS:

LifeWorks at WKU provides counseling, employment training, life skills training, and education to individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder to advance opportunities for independence and affordable housing. The residential buildings for LifeWorks at WKU are located at 1328 Adams Street and were completed through a renovation of existing apartment buildings. Renovations to the residential housing complex were completed in spring 2020, and the program launched with six residents in fall 2020. At capacity, the program will have 26 participants.

Dr. Gary A. Ransdell ('73, '74) served as the ninth president of Western Kentucky University from September 12, 1997 until his retirement on June 30, 2017.

During his tenure at WKU, he and the WKU Board of Regents led the campus through a dramatic transformation from a university of regional importance to a leading American university with international reach. WKU experienced significant application, enrollment, and graduation growth, as well as increases in private support, including millions of dollars in gifts and pledges from donors worldwide.

Dr. Ransdell received his Bachelor of Arts in Mass Communications from WKU in 1973, a Master of Public Service in Public Administration in 1974, and a Doctor of Education from Indiana University in 1978. He rejoined WKU as President after serving four years as Vice President for Administration and Advancement and seven years as Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. His previous professional experiences at WKU also included service as a field representative in the Office of University School Relations from 1974 to 1976 and as Associate Director of Alumni Affairs from 1978 to 1981. Dr. Ransdell served as Director of Alumni Relations at Southern Methodist University from 1981 to 1987.

Julie Ransdell served as First Lady from 1997 through 2017. She spent 20 years working both quietly behind the scenes and on the front lines of leadership alongside her husband. She willingly hung up her teacher hat in 1997 when Dr. Ransdell was named WKU's ninth President. During the years under Dr. Ransdell's leadership, Julie Ransdell played an active role in giving

back. She entertained guests and dignitaries on campus, managed intricate event details, and excelled in building important relationships with alumni and donors. She also made a mark upon countless WKU students as a mentor, friend and mother figure, and she frequently hosted student groups at the President's home on Chestnut Street.

Julie Ransdell earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from WKU in 1975. Prior to the Ransdells' return to WKU in 1997, she taught for Russellville and Barren County schools in Kentucky and in elementary schools in Bloomington, Indiana, and Clemson, South Carolina. The Ransdells met, dated and were married while at WKU pursuing their undergraduate degrees.

This honorific naming request is recommended in recognition of Dr. Gary and Julie Ransdell's outstanding leadership and dedication to the LifeWorks at WKU program. Their service and contributions to WKU make this a fitting tribute.

BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

LifeWorks at WKU will cover cost of signage.

RECOMMENDATION:

President Timothy C. Caboni recommends approval of the honorific naming of the LifeWorks at WKU housing campus and learning center as the *Julie and Gary Ransdell Living and Learning Community* in recognition of their leadership on the concept.

MOTION:

Approval of the naming of the LifeWorks at WKU housing campus and learning center as the *Julie and Gary Ransdell Living and Learning Community*.