I. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide a set of standards by which gifts are reviewed, accepted, processed and receipted by the University. All fundraising and constituent engagement activities on behalf of the University, including receipt of philanthropic commitments, will be conducted and coordinated by or through the Office of Institutional Advancement. All philanthropic commitments to the University must be processed by and credited to the donor through the Institutional Advancement gift processing and data management system.

II. Responsibility to Donors

A. Commitment to Donor: The University, its staff and volunteer representatives shall endeavor to assist donors in accomplishing their philanthropic objectives.

B. Confidentiality: Information concerning transactions between a donor and the University may be disclosed only with the permission of the donor or the donor’s authorized representative, or as required by law.

C. Anonymity: The University shall respect the wishes of any donor offering anonymous support to the extent permitted by law.
III. Ethical and Legal Consideration

A. Ethical Standards: The University is committed to the highest ethical standards. The University, its staff, and volunteer representatives shall adhere to standards of practice as adopted by the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, and the Association of Professional Researchers for Advancement.

B. Donor Asset Ownership and Competency to Transfer: The University will not participate in gift discussions if there is a question as to the title/ownership of the asset or the donor’s competency to transfer an asset.

C. Application: Acceptance of gifts is subject to the guidelines in this policy; however, at the discretion of the University, any gift may be declined.

D. Compliance: The University shall comply with all local, state and federal laws and regulations concerning all charitable gifts it encourages, solicits or accepts.

E. No Finder’s Fees and Commissions: The University shall not pay fees to any person as consideration for directing a gift by a donor to the University.

F. Legal, Tax and Financial Advice: The University does not provide, legal, tax or financial advice, and shall encourage prospective donors to discuss all charitable gift planning decisions with their own advisors before entering into any commitments to make gifts to the University. The University shall not endorse or recommend legal, tax or financial advisors to donors.

G. Preparation of Legal Documents: The University shall prepare legal forms to create charitable gift annuities and will prepare draft documents for gift agreements, written statements of charitable intent, or sample bequest language for execution by donors. The University will strongly encourage donors to have these documents reviewed by their own advisors. The University will not make any representations regarding the tax, legal or financial contents or effects of any such legal forms.

H. Payment of Fees: It will be the responsibility of the donor to secure an appraisal (where required) and to pay for the advice of independent legal, financial or other professional advisers as needed for all gifts made to the University.

I. Service as Executor or Living Trust Trustee: Unless approved in advance by the Gift Acceptance Committee, the University will not agree to serve as executor of a decedent’s estate nor as trustee of a living trust or other trust intended to serve as a person’s primary estate planning document.

J. Trusteeship: The University may serve as trustee of charitable remainder trusts if 100% of the remainder interest in the trust is irrevocably dedicated to the University and the University’s investment authority as trustee is unrestricted. The University will not serve as co-trustee of a charitable trust. Exceptions to this policy can be made by the Gift Acceptance Committee.
IV. Gift Acceptance

A. *Gift Acceptance Committee:* The Gift Acceptance Committee (GAC) shall be comprised of the Vice President of Institutional Advancement, the Provost, the Chief Financial Officer, University Counsel, and the Chair of the Alumni Relations and Development Committee (ARDC) of the University’s Board of Trustees. The ARDC Board Chair may designate another ARDC Committee member to fulfill his or her role.

B. *GAC Authority:* In addition to its specific roles described herein, the GAC shall approve acceptance of all gifts of assets that may incur charges or costs to the University for maintenance, disposal or other activities, other than ordinary-course expenses related to a certain type of property (e.g. cataloging and maintenance of special library collections, or regular maintenance and upkeep of equipment). Such asset types include, but are not limited to, intangible personal property, real estate, life insurance policies, closely-held stock, and other illiquid complex assets. Proposed gifts that fall outside of the guidelines of this Gift Acceptance Policy must be reviewed and approved by the GAC.

C. *Convening the GAC:* The Vice President of Institutional Advancement will convene GAC meetings. The GAC may invite other experts to participate in gift approval discussions as necessary.

V. Gift and Pledge Agreements

A. *Installment Gifts:* All gifts equal to or greater than $10,000 but less than $25,000 that will be made in installments must be accompanied by a gift form signed by the donor or an authorized representative of the donor.

B. *Agreements:* All gifts or pledges of $25,000 or more must be accompanied by a written agreement, signed by the University and the donor or an authorized representative of the donor.

C. *Creation of New Funds:* All gifts or pledges made to establish a new term or endowed fund must be accompanied by a written agreement signed by the University and the donor or authorized representative of the donor.

D. *Review by Board of Trustees:* Gifts or pledges of $100,000 or more will be presented to the ARDC.

VI. Gift Restrictions

A. *Unrestricted Gifts:* Unrestricted gifts or gifts restricted to the budgeted priorities of the University are always preferred, but the University and its representatives will maintain a donor-centric approach to fundraising to ensure that a donor’s strongest philanthropic interests are properly identified and addressed and thus maximum financial support for the University is realized.

B. *Other Restrictions on Gifts:* The University may accept gifts restricted to non-budgeted programs and purposes only upon the prior written approval of the GAC.
The University reserves the right to decline gifts too restrictive in purpose, too
difficult to administer, or designated for purposes outside of its mission.

C. Unrestricted Bequests: The President is authorized to designate all maturing,
unrestricted legacy gifts of $500,000 or less to benefit specific areas or programs in
the University. Designation of all maturing and unrestricted legacy gifts greater
than $500,000 requires approval of the Board of Trustees.

VII. Gift Types

A. Gifts of Property

These assets may be accepted by the University, subject to the following criteria:

1. Cash: Acceptable in any negotiable form, including currency, check and
credit card gifts.

2. Securities:
   1. Publicly-Traded: Stocks, bonds and mutual funds listed on an
      exchange or other publicly reported market.
   2. Closely-Held Securities and Business Interests: Debt and equity
      positions in non-publicly traded businesses, hedge funds, REITs,
      interests in limited liability companies and partnerships may only be
      accepted upon prior approval of the GAC.
   3. Options and Other Rights in Securities: Warrants, stock options and
      stock appreciation rights may only be accepted upon prior approval of
      the GAC.

3. Life Insurance: The University may accept a gift of a life insurance policy
   upon prior approval of the GAC.

4. Real Property: Residential and commercial real property, real estate
   interests, and remainder interests in property (gifts subject to a retained life
   estate) may only be accepted upon prior approval of the GAC and in
   accordance with the University’s then-current real property gift acceptance
   procedures. The University generally will not accept real property subject to
   a mortgage, lien or other encumbrance, property where title is divided for
   gifting purposes, time-share interests or any other gifts of partial interests in
   property or property with title limitations; exceptions must be approved by
   the GAC.

5. Tangible Personal Property: The University will accept gifts of tangible
   personal property such as jewelry, books, works of art, collections,
equipment and other tangible property if the proposed donation has sufficient
mission-related value to the University or can be liquidated to produce cash.
If a charitable income tax deduction is desired by the donor, it is the
responsibility of the donor to obtain and pay for an external professional appraisal to substantiate the deduction in accordance with IRS rules.

6. *Other Property:* Property not otherwise described in this section may only be accepted upon prior approval of the GAC.

7. *Matching Funds:* If a donor wishes to provide funds that require a challenge or matching gift, the University may agree to pursue matching funds through additional third-party donations to the University, but will not as a general rule use unrestricted University funds for this purpose. From time to time, the University may choose to undertake a special philanthropic campaign in which it provides University funds as full or partial matching support for a specified program or effort. For any such campaign, the University’s Board of Trustees will approve parameters for the matching funds, such as a cap and a time limit.

B. Structured Current Gifts

1. *Bargain Sales:* Transactions wherein the University pays less than full value for an asset and issues a gift receipt for the difference may only be accepted upon prior written approval of the GAC.

2. *Charitable Lead Trusts:* The University may accept a designation as payment beneficiary of a charitable lead trust. The University will not serve as trustee of a charitable lead trust.

3. *Matching Gifts:* The University will accept all matching gifts, subject to the terms and conditions of Section VI of this policy.

4. *IRA Charitable Rollover:* The University may accept all gifts directly transferred from an individual retirement account as permitted by applicable law.

5. *Donor Advised Funds:* The University accepts gifts from donor advised funds (“DAF”).


7. *Other Structured Current Gifts:* The University may only accept other structured current gifts with prior written approval of the GAC.

C. Structured Future Gifts

*Future Gifts Subject to a Payment Interest*

1. *Charitable Gift Annuities:* The University offers immediate payment, deferred payment, commuted payment and flexible payment charitable gift annuities with a minimum funding amount of $25,000 and a maximum funding amount of 25% of its total gift annuity pool.
2. *Charitable Remainder Trusts When the University Serves as Trustee:* The University will serve as trustee of charitable remainder trusts if the University is named as the irrevocable 100% beneficiary.

3. *Charitable Remainder Trusts When the University Does Not Serve as Trustee:* The University will accept designation as charitable beneficiary in any proportion of charitable remainder trusts that do not name the University as trustee.

*Future Gifts Not Subject to a Payment Interest*

1. *Gifts by Will or Living Trust:* Donors and supporters of the University will be encouraged to designate the University as a beneficiary of their wills or living trusts. The University reserves the right to decline a bequest.

2. *Retirement Plan, Life Insurance and Other Beneficiary Designations:* Donors will be encouraged to designate the University as beneficiary or contingent beneficiary of their retirement plans, life insurance policies, donor advised funds, and other accounts on which they can name a beneficiary.

D. *Gifts-in-Kind*

1. A gift-in-kind is a voluntary contribution of goods or services that can be used to advance the mission of the University or can be readily converted to cash.

2. If a charitable deduction is desired by the donor, it is the responsibility of the donor to obtain an external professional appraisal to substantiate the deduction in accordance with IRS rules.

3. It is the sole responsibility of the donor to determine the value of a contributed item; the receiver (the University and its representatives) cannot assign a value to the donated item(s).

4. Unrestricted gifts become the sole property of the University upon receipt and the University may make all necessary decisions as to their retention, location, treatment, and other considerations relating to their use and disposition.

5. It is the responsibility of each school/unit of the University and its respective Gift Officer to inform the University of received gifts-in-kind.

VIII. *Donor Recognition*

A. *General Considerations:* Contributions associated with naming opportunities must be documented in a written agreement between the donor and the University. Such contributions may or may not be endowed.
B. Naming Approval for Physical Spaces: All gifts of $50,000 or more which include a naming opportunity for a physical space must be approved by the GAC and the Board of Trustees.

C. Duration: Naming opportunities for physical spaces will be granted only for a term not to exceed the original useful life of the given facility or space and/or if 50 percent or more of the square footage of a named physical space is renovated. The University shall determine useful life based on industry standards for depreciation.

D. Approval for Other Naming Opportunities: All opportunities of $250,000 or more to name non-physical spaces (including but not limited to funds, centers, institutes or other programs) must be approved by the Gift Acceptance Committee and the Board of Trustees.

E. Naming Formulas: The University will generally adhere to a set of formulas as the basis for calculating acceptable naming gifts for its campuses, colleges, schools, buildings and the spaces within these areas. Except in the case of naming opportunities previously approved by the Board of Trustees, representatives of the University shall make no commitments to donors concerning the naming of buildings or facilities without the approval of the Board of Trustees upon recommendation of the GAC.

F. Funding Requirements: Outright gifts and signed pledges payable over up to five years may be used to fully or partially fund a named opportunity, as calculated by the face value of the gift or pledge at the time it is fully executed. The Vice President for Institutional Advancement has the discretion to accept extended pledge terms (beyond five years) for non-capital pledges up to $250,000. The President, after consultation with the GAC, must approve any pledge above $250,000 that is payable over more than five years.

Testamentary gifts may be used in combination with an outright pledge to fund a non-capital named opportunity if the present value of the testamentary portion of the commitment does not exceed 50% of the total gift and is secured by an irrevocable pledge agreement.

Future gifts subject to a payment interest, such as gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts, may be used to fund a non-capital named opportunity. The charitable deduction value of the future gift shall be used in determining the gift amount relative to the minimum gift requirement of the naming opportunity and shall be no more than 50% of the required gift amount.
Testamentary gifts and future gifts subject to a payment interest may not be used to directly fund capital projects and/or secure a naming opportunity of a physical space without prior approval of the GAC and the Chief Financial Officer.

For more information on current endowed fund minima and naming levels, see the University’s “Endowed Fund Overview and Minima.”

IX. Gift Valuation and Reporting

The University generally adheres to accepted standards of gift valuation and reporting for outright and documented deferred gifts, as recommended by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education and the National Council of Charitable Gift Planners. All exceptions to these standards shall be approved by the GAC.

X. Effective Date and Periodic Review

A. Effective Date: The effective date of this policy is February 7, 2012; revised May 8, 2012; revised October 2018.

B. Regular Review: The GAC shall review this policy approximately every other year to ensure that they continue to accurately describe the position of the University with respect to acceptance of charitable gifts, and shall propose to the ARDC, and the full Board of Trustees for ratification, those revisions that the GAC shall determine to be necessary or appropriate.

C. Special Review: The GAC shall initiate a supplemental review of these policies upon the enactment or promulgation of legislation or regulatory rules affecting fundraising and gift acceptance by the University, or prior to the start of a formal fundraising campaign. All proposed changes shall be shared with the full Board for ratification.

D. Amendments: The President of the University is authorized to make technical amendments to this policy.