



Item: CG: A-1a

## Community and Governmental Relations Committee

Date: Tuesday, April 21, 2020

**SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS**

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### PROPOSED COMMITTEE ACTION

Recommend full board approval to name the Medical Education and Student Affairs Suite within the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine the "Phyllis and Michael Dennis, M.D., Medical Education and Student Affairs Suite."

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

**Donation:**

Michael Dennis, M.D., and his wife, Phyllis, have graciously given to FAU's Schmidt College of Medicine a cumulative total to date of Four Hundred Eighty Seven Thousand Seven Hundred Seventy One and 27/100 Dollars (\$487,771.27). Dr. Dennis has made a new gift pledge in the amount of Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$17,500) to support the costs of renovating the Medical Education and Student Affairs Suite within the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine building. This most recent gift raises their total giving to the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine to more than \$500,000, the largest total amount given to a college by a Trustee in FAU history. In recognition of their significant financial support for the renovation, which is just one of many hallmarks of their extraordinary history of generosity and service to FAU, including Dr. Dennis's exemplary FAU trustee giving and service as Trustee and Founding Chairman of the College of Medicine Advisory Board, the FAU community wishes to honor Phyllis and Michael Dennis by naming the renovated suite the "Phyllis and Michael Dennis, M.D., Medical Education and Student Affairs Suite."

**Gift Purpose:**

The Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine is remodeling the Medical Education and Student Affairs Suite on the first floor of its main building (BC-71) on the Boca Raton campus. Dr. Dennis and his wife Phyllis are making a \$17,500 gift to fund one half the total budgeted cost of the project. The Donor has treasured connections to students in the College of Medicine at FAU and seeks to elevate the

student experience by improving the Medical Education/Student Affairs Suite with this gift. The FAUF agrees to use the Gift to assist the College with expenses associated with the Medical Education and Student Affairs Suite project.

**Donor's Background:**

Michael T.B. Dennis, M.D., is the founding Chair of the Advisory Board for the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine at Florida Atlantic University.

Dr. Dennis, a retired plastic and reconstructive surgeon, is founder of Hand-X-Tenders, a company that creates surgical instrumentation for the operating room and devices to increase the manual function of the disabled. He also is Co-founder of the Santa Barbara Breast Cancer Institute. He serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the Palm Beach County Medical Society. Additionally, he founded the Medical Education Forum of the Palm Beaches and funded the preparation, publication and distribution of the Regional Medical Care Guide for residents of Palm Beach County. A Diplomate of the American Board of Plastic Surgery, he served as Vice Chairman of the Palm Beach Civic Association from 2006 to 2008 and as Chairman of the Town of Palm Beach's Medical Care Commission from 2005 to 2008. In 2013, in recognition of his service to Florida Atlantic University and the community at large, Dr. Dennis was awarded the President's Distinguished Service Medallion.

Dr. Dennis received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College and his medical degree from the University of Florida. He completed his surgical internship and his residency in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Stanford University Medical Center. In addition, from 1971 to 1973 Dr. Dennis served as Commander of the 416th Medical Service Flight, United States Air Force Reserves.

As a practicing physician, Dr. Dennis spent several weeks annually for 29 years overseas volunteering for organizations including Doctors Without Borders (Middle East), Interplast (Central and South America), the Billy Graham Evangelical Hospital Fund (Asia) and the Latter Day Saints (Pacific Islands), working pro bono to correct congenital defects such as cleft palates, cleft lips and hand deformities. He provided these critical medical services in a total of nineteen countries.

Dr. Dennis is married to Phyllis Dickinson Harrison (married in 1964). They have three children.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

Cost of signage and installation - TBD upon completion of remodeling of the Medical Education and Student Affairs Suite in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine.

**IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE**

Installation of signage: TBD upon completion of remodeling of the Medical Education and Student Affairs Suite in the Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine.

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**Presented by: Danita D. Nias**

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