MEMORANDUM

TO: President Joe DiPietro
Chancellor Wayne Davis

FROM: Joe Johnson

DATE: October 15, 2018

RE: Recommendations of the Eugenia Williams Property
Re-Use Committee

The fifteen members (noted in attachment 2) of the Eugenia Williams Property
Re-Use Committee, appointed by President Joe DiPietro, over the past four
months met four times. Dr. David Golden and Mrs. Tiffany Carpenter
participated in and assisted with the work of the committee. Mr. Ashley
Shomaker and his U30 Group associates interviewed a large number of
University of Tennessee statewide officials, UT Knoxville administrative and
academic officials, and UT Institute of Agriculture administrative and academic
officials to secure ideas, thoughts, and recommendations for re-use of the
Williams property. The work of the U30 Group was of great value to the
committee.

I am indeed grateful to the Re-Use Committee members that toured the Williams
property, attended meetings, spent valuable time with U30 Group staff members,
and actively participated in committee discussions seeking to arrive at thoughtful
and feasible recommendations for the re-use of the Williams property.

The recommendations of the Williams Property Re-Use Committee are set forth
in attachment 1. The recommendations were presented and discussed with each
committee member in a telephone conversation with me, resulting in unanimous
support from the committee.

I was pleased to work with the Committee along with Tiffany, David, and Ashley
Shomaker, and am very grateful for the cooperation, thought, and advice from
everyone.

JEJ/bkw

Attachments: 1, 2
Recommendation of the Eugenia Williams Property Re-Use Committee  
October 12, 2018

Following productive meetings of Eugenia Williams Property Re-Use Committee and the extensive work of the U30 Group, a major recommendation is that the Eugenia Williams property be retained and used by the University of Tennessee with emphasis on use by the Knoxville campus. The property may also be made available to appropriate community organizations and events.

It is recommended that the University of Tennessee’s Knoxville campus move as rapidly as possible to adapt the Eugenia Williams house for use as a retreat center for students, faculty, administrators, donors, alumni groups, trustees, and other groups. The house will also be the home for UT Knoxville student leadership development and other programs to enhance student achievement. Actions will be taken by UT campus and UT statewide officials to secure funding to adapt the house to serve as a retreat venue and as the site for the student leadership development center and other programs for the benefit of student leaders.

The Williams Property Re-Use Committee also recommends that over time other parts of this fantastic property be considered for other uses that may include the following:

1. Landscape architecture educational projects.
2. Possible adjunct to the University of Tennessee gardens.
3. Renovation of the truly unique barn as a site for meetings and event space.
4. Develop the lakeside acreage for outdoor events for UTK and UT organizations and supporters.
5. Creation of facilities that can be used for the entertainment and recruitment of faculty, students, administrators, and donors.
6. A site for art exhibits and permanent pieces of art indoors and outdoors.

The uses of the property should always be friendly to the remarkable neighborhood in which the property is located.

Joseph E. Johnson, Committee Chair
President Emeritus
The University of Tennessee

JEJ/bkw