

**MEMORANDUM**

To: University Senate  
From: Sue Sutherland, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs  
Subject: Proposal to Establish the Institute on Aging, Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge  
Date: April 15, 2026

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH THE INSTITUTE ON AGING, ENTERPRISE FOR RESEARCH INNOVATION AND KNOWLEDGE

- Whereas Ohio is experiencing rapidly aging demographics, with an estimated 2.9 million older adults by 2050 with affects on healthcare, education, services, social infrastructure and quality of life; and
- Whereas the Institute will focus on interdisciplinary research, education, clinical care and community engagement related to aging and will serve as hub for organizing and supporting on-going and new age-related work; and currently will bring together more than 50 faculty from 13 colleges; and
- Whereas the Institute aligns with the strategic plan of the Enterprise for Research Innovation and Knowledge (ERIK), and in Phase I will focus on areas of established strength – cancer, cardiovascular, and neuroscience related aging research; and
- Whereas there is a plan for membership, and reporting structure that includes three co-directors who report to the Executive Vice President of ERIK, and with additional leadership, and with oversight through Deputy Directors, both an Internal and External Advisory Committee, and a Dean’s Advisory Committee; and
- Whereas there is an initial internal investment from the College of Medicine, the Comprehensive Cancer Center and ERIK; a breakdown of initial costs, and identification of potential future funding; and
- Whereas there is a set of more than 20 letters of support; and
- Whereas the proposal was reviewed by a subcommittee that included input from the University Research Committee and the Senate Fiscal Committee and then approved by the full Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on April 8, 2026.

Now therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to establish the Institute on Aging and respectfully submit the proposal to the Board of Trustees for action.