TO: Endowment Donors

FROM: Wendell Weakley, President/CEO
James O. Carpenter, Chair, UM Foundation Board of Directors

SUBJECT: Change in Endowment Management Fee

DATE: August 9, 2018

In an effort to always provide full disclosure and accountability for the utilization of your generous gifts, we want to let you know that a slight increase in endowment management fees has been approved by the Joint Committee on University Investments. Going forward, the total fee on endowments will be 0.9%, which remains below the average of such fees charged by all other SEC public institutions.

This change is the result of a request made by Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter, asking the UM Foundation to consider an additional $1.5 million of annual funding to invest in the operations of the offices of Development (the units responsible for attracting private funds for academics, research, and service) on the Oxford, Medical Center, and regional campuses.

Our current development efforts are limited, constantly propelling us to do “more with less.” Although the challenges are great, there are also many opportunities that, if resourced properly, will generate significant additional private support for the University. The increased dollars will underwrite initiatives designed to embrace opportunities.

The exciting news is that your continued commitment to the University of Mississippi has enabled our endowment total to realize an all-time high of $715 million and is now well on its way to achieving our long-time goal of $1 billion in permanently endowed funds. At the close of FY 2018, we are projecting a one-year endowment return of 10%; this follows a return of 12.9% in FY 2017.

We are truly grateful to you, our alumni and friends, for your generosity, which continues to provide a steady stream of income to advance our beloved University’s mission. And please know that consistent, diligent, and active investment of your endowment dollars remains our focus to ensure achievement of our mutual goals now and for future generations.