

Procedure for Reviewing Names of University Spaces, Units and Entities

(4/20/22)

Introduction

Cleveland State University (CSU) is committed to creating and discovering knowledge to improve the wellbeing of our state, regional, national and global communities; educating students through a comprehensive array of distinguished academic programs; preparing a diverse student body to be leaders and engaged citizens; and fostering a culture of engagement and service.

To live up to these ideals, the university must be willing to regularly examine its practices and standards, to ensure alignment with its values. This commitment to reflection extends to all aspects of the institution, including the names associated with university spaces, units and entities.

To provide clarity on the process for reviewing such names, the university has created the procedure set forth below for CSU students, faculty, staff, alumni and/or community members to submit requests for the review of university space, unit or entity names. In following these procedures, the university will be guided by the following broad principles:

- Changing named spaces, units or entities is a consequential decision that requires careful study and thoughtful consideration of different viewpoints.
- In considering a name change, the university should conduct a thoughtful and inclusive process, informed by careful historical research and reflection.
- This process should be guided both by the distinguished history and the present values and mission of CSU.
- Decisions about naming and renaming must be made with due regard for CSU's educational mission and core values, including its commitments to teaching, quality research, truth-seeking, and inclusivity.

Relevant Policy

In the policy on Space, Unit and Entity Naming, CSU names entities and spaces in three different categories –philanthropic naming, honorific naming, and administrative naming. That policy is designed to help foster positive rewith university mission, traditions, and policies. Once a name is

university to remove a name, upon approval from the President and Board of Trustees. The procedure set forth below provides additional guidance for such decisions.

Procedure Overview

Removing a naming designation is a serious step that must not be taken lightly or hastily. To address requests for such changes, an ad hoc committee consisting of university representatives will be convened to review requests to remove existing names according to established criteria and make recommendations regarding appropriate actions to the Provost and President. Final decisions regarding the removal or amendment of existing names rest with the Board of Trustees. The procedure entails four phases:

1. Request and Initial Review

2.. Review by Ad Hoc Advisory Committee 2-(t)-2 ()-1 (-11.0-(t)-2 ())TjEVB 488Tm()3.jEMD 2 Tf0.2c 0 Tw 8

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- Why was the building named after this person? Was the name honorific or in recognition of a philanthropic gift (if known)? If it was honorific, briefly describe the honoree's significant contributions to CSU.
 - Why is the legacy of the namesake fundamentally at odds with the principles guiding the campus today? That is, explain why the legacy's pernicious effects outweigh the individual's contributions. What substantial evidence is there to support this claim?
 - What is the perceived impact on members of the university or local community if the name is retained? What is the impact if it is removed?
 - Any other relevant information or arguments that should be considered by the ad hoc review and advisory committee.
- *Ad Hoc Review and Advisory Committee.* When a naming review request is received, an ad hoc review and advisory committee will be convened by the Provost. The committee will include faculty, staff, students and representatives from key areas, including but not limited to Academic Affairs, Advancement, Alumni Association, Athletics, Development, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, Environmental Sustainability, Finance, Health Services, Information Technology, International Affairs, Institutional Research and Planning, Legal Affairs, Marketing and Communications, Physical Plant, Risk Management, Student Affairs, and the Office of the President.

significantly contributes to an environment that excludes some members of the university community from opportunities to learn, thrive and succeed.

- The removal of the name would not stifle viewpoint diversity or fail to acknowledge the historical complexity or holistic contributions of the individual to the university

- Expanding (and, where necessary, correcting) the historical narrative on campus
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Board of Trustees' decision. Further, for all naming matters that reach the Board of Trustees, the committee's report, President's decision, and Board of Trustees action shall be maintained in the CSU Archives.