TO: The UVM Community
FROM: Ron Lumbra, Committee Chair
DATE: August 13, 2018
RE: Update from the UVM Board of Trustees Renaming Advisory Committee

On March 26, 2018, University of Vermont Board of Trustees approved the creation and appointment of a new Board of Trustees Renaming Advisory Committee. This committee will consider proposals from the University community, applying principles and criteria developed at Yale University in 2016. On April 9, 2018, a memo was issued to the UVM Community detailing the process for renaming proposal consideration.

On behalf of the Renaming Advisory Committee, I am writing to the UVM Community to invite input with respect to our consideration of whether to remove the name of Guy W. Bailey from the main library building. Our Committee has received a proposal to remove the name, which may be found here: http://www.uvm.edu/trustees/?Page=other_com/renaming/content.html&SM=submenu1.html

The Advisory Committee met on May 11, 2018 to conduct a preliminary review and determined the proposal warranted further consideration. On May 25, 2018, an update was issued to the UVM Community about the Committee’s progress to date and plans going forward. On July 18, 2018, the Committee convened again to discuss process issues.

The Committee is conducting a thorough, careful, and deliberative process prior to making any recommendation to the Board of Trustees. Input from the UVM Community is an important part of that process.

The Committee will be employing the following criteria, which were developed by Yale University in 2016:

There is a strong presumption against renaming a building on the basis of the values associated with its namesake. Such a renaming should be considered only in exceptional circumstances.

- The presumption against renaming is at its strongest when a building has been named for someone who made major contributions to the University.
Principles to be considered:

- Is a principal legacy of the namesake fundamentally at odds with the mission of the University?
- Was the relevant principal legacy significantly contested in the time and place in which the namesake lived?
- Did the University, at the time of a naming, honor a namesake for reasons that are fundamentally at odds with the mission of the University?
- Does a building whose namesake has a principal legacy fundamentally at odds with the University’s mission, or which was named for reasons fundamentally at odds with the University’s mission, play a substantial role in forming community at the University?

If you would like to submit information to the Renaming Advisory Committee with respect to the Bailey Library proposal, please consider addressing the following:

1. Do you support the denaming request?
2. Statement supporting why/why not, in light of the criteria outlined above.
3. If you have it, please provide any additional pertinent information about the historical record with respect to Guy Bailey’s involvement in the eugenics movement at UVM and in Vermont, or any other relevant information with respect to his record and legacy?
4. Is there any other information you would like the Committee to know?

The Committee will review all input from the UVM Community as it continues its deliberations. If you wish to provide information to the Committee, please do so no later than September 14, 2018, to this email address: trustees@uvm.edu.

Once the Advisory Committee is satisfied that it has received adequate information to make a decision, final deliberations will take place. If a recommendation is to be made to the Board of Trustees, the earliest time for any Board action would be at the October 26, 2018 meeting.

The Renaming Advisory Committee welcomes questions, thoughts, and ideas from the UVM Community at any time, using the email address above.

Thank you.