TO: The University of Vermont Community  
FROM: Ron Lumbra, Chair, UVM Board of Trustees Renaming Advisory Committee  
DATE: April 9, 2018  
RE: Process for Renaming Proposal Consideration

On March 8, 2018, University of Vermont Board of Trustees Chair David Daigle announced the creation and appointment of a new Renaming Advisory Committee. This Committee is charged with evaluating proposals, from the University community, to remove a name from a building, academic unit or academic program and making recommendations to the Board of Trustees who has final decision-making authority on these matters. Proposals will be considered by applying principles and criteria developed at Yale University in 2016. This approach was unanimously endorsed by a University of Vermont work group, chaired by former Provost and Professor of Geology John M. Hughes, appointed for the purpose of evaluating such principles and criteria. Further information about the Yale principles and criteria may be found here:

https://secretary.yale.edu/services-resources/procedure-consideration-renaming-requests

The Renaming Advisory Committee held its initial organizational meeting on April 2nd. The entire committee membership was present. I am writing to inform you of the process we will be using to consider proposals:

- In order for the removal of a name from a building, academic unit or academic program to be considered, a written proposal must be received by the Renaming Advisory Committee from a member or members of the UVM community (faculty, staff, and students). A renaming request must be submitted in the form of a proposal that states the grounds on which the name should be removed, and specifies how the Principles on Renaming apply to the request. Proposals should be sent to: Trustees@uvm.edu Attention: Renaming Advisory Committee. An optional form is attached to assist in the preparation of name removal requests. The proposal need not be lengthy, but should present a carefully researched and well-documented case that includes relevant supporting evidence.
The Committee will evaluate proposals considering the following Yale Principles on Renaming:\(^1\):

1. Is a principal legacy of the namesake fundamentally at odds with the mission of the University?

2. Was the relevant principal legacy significantly contested in the time and place in which the namesake lived?

3. 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?

4. 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?

The Renaming Advisory Committee strongly encourages collaboration among multiple parties interested in name removal from the same building or program, resulting in the submission of a single proposal.

In some instances, the Committee may seek outside expertise for information when evaluating proposals.

Once the Committee has determined that a proposal warrants further consideration, the UVM Community will be afforded the opportunity to provide comments in writing regarding the proposed change prior to final deliberations of the Committee.

The Committee will then meet to determine its decision and forward its recommendation to the Board of Trustees for final consideration.

The work of the Renaming Advisory Committee is important. The Committee will conduct a fair, thorough, and open process as proposals for renaming are considered. The Committee is ready to receive proposals. I would be happy to answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

Thank you.

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\(^1\) Procedure for Consideration of Renaming Requests. Yale University, [https://secretary.yale.edu/services-resources/procedure-consideration-renaming-requests](https://secretary.yale.edu/services-resources/procedure-consideration-renaming-requests). Accessed April 5, 2018. Please note that the principles listed are quoted directly from Yale; the numbering is not part of the original from Yale, but has been added for ease of reference.
Proposal For Removing A Name from a UVM Building or Program

DATE:

Name(s) and contact information of proposers:

Facility or program for name removal consideration:

Rationale for name removal, including relevant Principles on Renaming that apply:
(Please attach relevant documents, including pertinent historical or other evidence, with appropriate documentation and citations)

Thank you for submitting a proposal. The Renaming Advisory Committee will give your request thorough and careful consideration.

Ron Lumbra, Committee Chair