



Memorandum

DATE: October 28, 2020

FROM: Ian Janssen
Director, University Archives and Records Management

TO: Matt Kinservik
Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs

Michael Vaughan
Interim Vice Provost for Diversity

SUBJECT: Building Naming Resolutions

This memorandum contains information regarding the resolutions and practices adopted by the University of Delaware Board of Trustees regarding the naming of buildings and places.

The guidelines and resolutions concerning the naming of buildings and places first were adopted in 1973 and amended or replaced several times since, the most recent iteration of this dating to 2013. This chronology of the major resolutions is presented below.

Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees, May 19, 1973

- Resolution based on guidelines submitted to the Board of Trustees by a special subcommittee on March 27, 1970
- Stated that buildings should be named as soon as possible after completion of construction
- Stated that buildings should not be renamed “insofar as possible”
- Stated that major academic buildings should be named for past university presidents and distinguished faculty
- Stated that other buildings (excepting residence halls and complexes) should be named for distinguished alumni, Delaware historical figures, benefactors, and former university trustees
- Stated that residence halls and complexes should be named for political subdivisions of Delaware (e.g. hundreds, counties, etc.), cities and towns in Delaware, rivers in Delaware, and other historical places and names

Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees, December 15, 1986

- Stated that buildings should be named as soon as possible after completion of construction
- Stated that buildings should not be renamed “insofar as possible”
- Stated that major academic buildings should be named for past university presidents, distinguished faculty, and benefactors
- Stated that other buildings (excepting residence halls and complexes) should be named for distinguished alumni, Delaware historical figures, benefactors, and former university trustees

- Stated that residence halls and complexes should be named for political subdivisions of Delaware, cities and towns in Delaware, rivers in Delaware, and other historical places and names
- Stated that subject to approval by the Board of Trustees, individual rooms, building wings, laboratories, lecture halls, and recital halls could be named for significant benefactors
- Contains additional clauses pertaining to the naming of research vessels, colleges, schools, departments, centers, lecture series, “special academic services,” endowed scholarships, and other gifts

Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees, December 14, 1990

- Stated that buildings should be named as soon as possible after completion of construction
- Stated that buildings should not “ordinarily” be renamed
- Stated that upon recommendation of the University President, the Board of Trustees may name buildings for major benefactors and “distinguished individuals” associated with the University of Delaware

Resolution adopted by the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees, April 23, 2013

- Supersedes all previous resolutions pertaining to the naming of buildings and places
- States that buildings should be named in a timely manner, but that University Development should be given the opportunity to “evaluate the potential for involving a benefactor in the naming process”
- Stated that buildings should not be renamed “insofar as possible”
- Stated that the parameters provided in the resolution for naming buildings and places intended as “general guidelines” subject to approval by the President and the Chair of the Trustee Committee on Public Affairs and Advancement
- Stated that major academic buildings should be named for past university presidents, prominent emeritus faculty, and benefactors
- Stated that other buildings (excepting residence halls and complexes) should be named for distinguished alumni, Delaware historical figures, benefactors, and former university trustees
- Stated that residence halls and complexes should be named for political subdivisions of Delaware, cities and towns in Delaware, rivers in Delaware, and other historical places and names
- Stated that buildings should not be named for current university faculty, administrators, or trustees unless they are benefactors.

A copy of the full 2013 resolution is attached. Please contact me with any questions or if you need additional information. Thank you.

Attachment

CC: Beth Brand
Vice President and University Secretary

Brent Schrader
Associate University Secretary