

Final Report of the President's and Provost's  
Advisory Committee on University History  
[campushistory.umn.edu](http://campushistory.umn.edu)

Guiding Principles and Recommendations for the Naming Process of Buildings and Other  
Significant University Assets

May 9, 2018

**Executive Summary of the Report**

Our report begins with a recap of the creation of the President's and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History, a review of current University policy, and an examination of core University values. We describe and recommend five guiding principles to guide honorary naming, renaming, and removing names of buildings, spaces, and significant University assets: *Change, Diversity, Preservation, Exceptionality, and Deliberation*.

Based on the core values and the guiding principles, the report then discusses the committee's procedural and policy recommendations. These recommendations include, in part:

- The Advisory Committee on University History (ACUH) should be established as a permanent committee. The role of this permanent committee shall be: (a) to consider renaming and name removal issues, and the possibilities of future, more diverse naming; and (b) to foster in a broad and substantive manner ongoing public discussion and dissemination of knowledge about University history.
- The ACUH will investigate and evaluate proposals to rename or remove names from significant University assets. The All-University Honors Committee will retain its role as the body that investigates and evaluates proposals for namings.
- Students and members of the public should also be among those eligible to nominate individuals for honorary namings and to propose name changes or removal.
- To provide a ready database of names to promote a broad representation of the University's history and values in future naming opportunities, we propose a new one-page pre-naming proposal process.
- We recommend that the Board of Regents amend its Namings policy so that the process of naming, renaming or revoking the naming of University buildings after past presidents and chancellors follows the same review path as that of other honorary namings.
- All inquiries into building name changes, including name removal or renaming, should consist of an informed review of the history of the naming, the major legacy of the individual or individuals, and rationales for and against changing the naming.
- The naming, name removal, or renaming of any building or significant University asset should be accompanied by a public display outlining the history of the naming, including the individual's major achievements and impact on the University, and an open and candid discussion of the rationale for name removal or renaming. A similar process should occur when a decision is made to retain a name.

## Introduction

The President's and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History (ACUH) was created by University of Minnesota President Eric Kaler on September 13, 2017, "to guide our thinking about appropriate modern responses to historical issues on our campuses."<sup>1</sup> The committee's creation was inspired by the official opening of "A Campus Divided: Progressives, Anti-Communists, and Anti-Semitism at the University of Minnesota, 1930-1942." The exhibit was curated by Emerita Professor Riv-Ellen Prell and doctoral student Sarah Atwood and aided by a research team; an advisory board of faculty, staff, and community members; and staff who designed and developed the physical and digital exhibits. "A Campus Divided" explored issues of segregation, discrimination, antisemitism, and political monitoring of students at the University of Minnesota from 1930-1942. Exploring both the involvement of administrators in these actions as well as the efforts of students, faculty, staff, and community members to change these practices, the exhibit drew large audiences to the physical version in Andersen Library and scores more to the digital version.<sup>2</sup> Visitors left over 550 Post-it note responses reacting to and commenting on the exhibit.<sup>3</sup> As a result of the exhibit's findings regarding the actions of University officials, the question arose whether certain campus buildings names should be changed.

The committee's charge, issued on September 21, 2017 by President Kaler and Executive Vice President and Provost Karen Hanson, was stated as follows:<sup>4</sup>

*We ask your committee to continue our examination of the University's past, and guide our responses going forward. Specifically, we ask you to lead a system-wide conversation to:*

- *Examine the process by which buildings are named and statues or other symbols of historical figures are commissioned and dedicated on our campuses;*
- *Develop a rationale for a process that might involve a change or modification of a property name or a commemorative statue or symbol;*
- *Propose a process by which such a rationale could be implemented; and*
- *Forward recommendations to the two of us.*

*You are not charged with renaming any specific buildings. Rather, we seek your committee's guidance on any efforts that might arise to rename any structure, statue or historical symbol on our campuses. Your work will also inform and guide us in the naming of new structures.*

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<sup>1</sup><https://president.umn.edu/content/campus-divided-and-our-work-forward-presidents-and-provosts-advisory-committee-university>

<sup>2</sup> <http://acampusdivided.umn.edu>

<sup>3</sup>[https://campushistory.dl.umn.edu/sites/g/files/pua4451/f/summary\\_of\\_visitor\\_responses\\_to\\_a\\_campus\\_divided.pdf](https://campushistory.dl.umn.edu/sites/g/files/pua4451/f/summary_of_visitor_responses_to_a_campus_divided.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> [https://president.umn.edu/sites/president.umn.edu/files/university\\_history\\_charge\\_09212017\\_0.pdf](https://president.umn.edu/sites/president.umn.edu/files/university_history_charge_09212017_0.pdf)

Members of the committee were recruited over the subsequent weeks, with the interest of creating a committee that included membership from all System campuses; faculty, staff, and students; representatives from key governance bodies; and donors, alumni, and community members. Faculty expertise ranged across numerous disciplinary areas. The committee held its first meeting on November 17, 2017 and held a number of additional meetings through May 1, 2018. The list of members appears in the Appendix at the end of this document. In addition, two subcommittees convened to discuss issues of naming and issues that more generally arise from campus history.<sup>5</sup>

The work of the ACUH is detailed on its website at <http://campushistory.umn.edu>. The website includes meeting agendas, minutes, reading materials, presentations, media articles, and resources from peer institutions. Representatives of the committee met with undergraduate student government, graduate student government, and the Senate Consultative Committee to receive input prior to developing its final set of recommendations. The ACUH website also included an email address for feedback and the option to provide feedback through an anonymous form. The University of Minnesota Alumni Association's *Minnesota Alumni Magazine* published an article on the question of building naming and removing names at the U in its Spring 2018 issue and later emailed alumni to encourage them to share their feedback at the ACUH website.<sup>6</sup>

## **Background Discussion**

Namings of buildings and exterior public spaces are perhaps a university's highest honor. They are eminently visible and enduring. The university forges a bond with the named individual or entity and will be seen to endorse their legacies, either actively or passively, both by members of the campus community and all others who visit or move throughout the campus. Namings, as a prominent aspect of our experience of the University's built space, also provide an important intergenerational connection between campus and community members. It is, therefore, essential that the University of Minnesota develop a process to evaluate whether honorary namings, some of which were bestowed long ago, reflect the University's core values and culture. This process can help us reflect upon and review the campus environment we create when it comes to building

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<sup>5</sup> The committee received indispensable and tireless support from several College of Liberal Arts staff--Kathryn Louis (Chief of Staff), Jamey Hanson (Chief Information Officer), Deborah Ludowese (Assistant to the CIO and Associate Administrator for Liberal Arts Technologies and Innovation Services), Ellen Miller (Executive Assistant to the Dean), Derk Renwick (Assistant to the Chief of Staff), and Christopher Stordalen (Assistant Director for Improving Process, Liberal Arts Technologies and Innovation Services)--and from undergraduate student Ruby Tetmeyer. Without their expert and dedicated assistance, the work of the committee would not have been possible.

<sup>6</sup> <http://cms.umnalumni.org/UMAA-stories/Whats-in-a-Name>

names and wayfinding. It is important to have a forum for people to bring issues forward and a process for reviewing them.<sup>7</sup>

Current University policies and procedures are provided in the Board of Regents Policy on Namings, as amended through December 11, 2015.<sup>8</sup> The policy and procedure is most developed for namings. Information about the current University process for honorary namings, which implements the Regents Naming Policy, appears on the University Awards and Honors page.<sup>9</sup>

Considerations of renaming or removing a name are briefer and are repeated here in full:

#### SECTION VII. RENAMINGS AND REVOCATION.

Subd. 1. Renamings. The University reserves the right to rename any named asset of the University. Renamings shall be consistent with the review and approval process for namings.

Subd. 2. Revocation. The University reserves the right to revoke a naming if for any reason it presents risk or harm to the reputation of the University, or if the intent of a gift or the terms of a sponsorship associated with the naming cannot be fulfilled. For all namings requiring Board approval, the Board reserves the right to revoke them. Other namings may be revoked by the president or delegate.

The University of Minnesota Foundation provides additional information on renamings or name changes in the case of namings that recognized a donor for a significant gift or gifts. This information appears in the Foundation's document on Naming Terms, Limitations and Changes.

<sup>10</sup> The Foundation also provides a Naming Policy Guide with regard to namings occurring to recognize significant donor gifts.<sup>11</sup>

#### The University's Core Values

Current Regents Policy on Namings, Section II, emphasizes the significant connection of the University's core values to the naming process in three of the six principles to guide naming, repeated here in full:

(a) Naming for an individual or organization is an honor that forges a close link between the individual or organization and the University. As such, it is critically important that

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<sup>7</sup> References throughout this document to "building naming," unless otherwise noted, should be assumed to also refer to naming of external public spaces on campus and University significant assets.

<sup>8</sup> <http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Namings.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> <http://uawards.umn.edu/namings-significant-university-assets>

<sup>10</sup> [https://umf.umn.edu/sites/umf.umn.edu/files/naming\\_terms\\_limitations\\_and\\_changes\\_0.pdf](https://umf.umn.edu/sites/umf.umn.edu/files/naming_terms_limitations_and_changes_0.pdf)

<sup>11</sup> [https://umf.umn.edu/sites/umf.umn.edu/files/naming\\_policy\\_guide\\_0.pdf](https://umf.umn.edu/sites/umf.umn.edu/files/naming_policy_guide_0.pdf)

the integrity, history, behavior, and reputation of the named individual or organization be consistent with the academic mission and values of the University.

(b) The University shall ensure that namings preserve the long-standing traditions, values, culture, and prestige of the University.

(c) Namings as part of sponsorship agreements shall be consistent with the University's reputation and core values and the highest standards for business and financial integrity.

The University of Minnesota does not have a single, unified statement articulating its core values, but these values are stated in several documents. We take these stated values to collectively represent the University System's guiding core values.<sup>12</sup>

In Board of Regents Policy, Code of Conduct, as amended December 8, 2006, the following core values are stated in Section II.1:<sup>13</sup>

- excellence and innovation
- discovery and the search for the truth
- diversity of community and ideas
- integrity
- academic freedom
- stewardship and accountability for resources and relationships
- sharing knowledge in a learning environment
- application of knowledge and discovery to advance the quality of life and economy of the region and the world; and
- service as a land grant institution to Minnesota, the nation, and the world.

The Code of Conduct in Section III references Standards of Conduct that we interpret to reflect core University values. These standards, explained in greater length in the Code of Conduct, are:

- act ethically and with integrity
- be fair and respectful to others
- manage responsibly
- protect and preserve University resources
- promote a culture of compliance
- preserve academic freedom and meet academic responsibilities
- ethically conduct teaching and research
- avoid conflicts of interest and commitment
- carefully manage public, private, and confidential information; and
- promote health and safety in the workplace.

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<sup>12</sup> Crookston references its core values at <https://www.crk.umn.edu/general/mission-values-and-purpose>, and Duluth does so at <http://d.umn.edu/strategic-planning/strategic-plans>. Rochester references its grounding values at <https://r.umn.edu/about-umr/vision>.

<sup>13</sup> [https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Code\\_of\\_Conduct.pdf](https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Code_of_Conduct.pdf)

The Code of Conduct applies to: members of the Board of Regents; faculty and staff; any individual employed by the University, using University resources or facilities, or receiving funds administered by the University; and volunteers and other representatives when speaking or acting on behalf of the University.

Other documents in which the University articulates key values and standards of conduct are the Student Conduct Code<sup>14</sup> and the Board of Regents Mission Statement.<sup>15</sup> The guiding principles in the Board's Mission Statement describe the appropriate working environment for the University that reflects the core values and standards of conduct stated above. This environment :

- embodies the values of academic freedom, responsibility, integrity, and cooperation
- provides an atmosphere of mutual respect, free from racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice and intolerance
- assists individuals, institutions, and communities in responding to a continuously changing world
- is conscious of and responsive to the needs of the many communities it is committed to serving
- creates and supports partnerships within the University, with other educational systems and institutions, and with communities to achieve common goals; and
- inspires, sets high expectations for, and empowers the individuals within its community.

We recommend five key *Guiding Principles* to guide honorary naming, renaming,<sup>16</sup> and removing names of buildings, spaces, and significant University assets.<sup>17</sup>

### *Change*

Change in our campus community occurs continuously as students, faculty and staff advance in their studies and as physical spaces, including buildings, are erected, remodeled and dismantled. Indeed, our own understanding and interpretation of campus history can also change over time. We should not be incapacitated by the idea and actuality of change including considering renaming long-standing building names. Carefully considered changes can be made on campus and yet the University still maintains its history, culture, values and traditions. Changes are sometimes needed to preserve our core values.

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<sup>14</sup> [https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Student\\_Conduct\\_Code.pdf](https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Student_Conduct_Code.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> [https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Mission\\_Statement.pdf](https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Mission_Statement.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> Unless specified otherwise, references to “renaming” throughout this document also include situations in which a name is removed but a new honorific name is not applied to the building, space, or asset at the same time.

<sup>17</sup> We benefited significantly from and acknowledge the contributions of our colleagues at the University of Michigan and Yale University, who provided thoughtful discussion of the principles that might guide renaming or name removal processes at their campuses.  
<https://president.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2017/01/PACOUH-memo-on-naming-1-13-17.pdf>  
; [https://president.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/CEPR\\_FINAL\\_12-2-16.pdf](https://president.yale.edu/sites/default/files/files/CEPR_FINAL_12-2-16.pdf)

### *Diversity*

Throughout the history of the University of Minnesota, substantial and positive contributions have been made by many unique individuals from a variety of backgrounds. Therefore, as befits a public, land grant university, the diversity of Minnesotans should be a prominent consideration in the process of naming and renaming buildings and significant University assets.

### *Preservation*

It is incumbent upon us today to acknowledge the full, living history that formed this University community. History can be used to both illuminate and obscure our shared experiences. It is our task to make room in our story for those voices held silent in the shadows of the past and to make certain our future conversations include everyone. Thus, before a decision is made to rename or remove a name, care must be taken that the process does not erase critical, even controversial, historical moments, persons or places since erasure is anathema to the principles of a liberal education. Changing the name of a building, space, or university asset does not and should not mean erasure. The process to name or rename or remove a name should be considered part of the pedagogical mission of the University.

### *Exceptionality*

The renaming of a building named to honor an individual's contribution to the University is a serious matter and must be undertaken with great care. Only in exceptional instances, when the values reflected in the current name are in opposition to the values embraced by the University, should renaming or removing a name take place. As stated by our colleagues at the University of Michigan, "it behooves us to understand that it is impossible to hold someone accountable for failing to share our contemporary ideas and values. Instead, the question must be what ideas, values, and actions were possible in a particular historical context." Our colleagues at Yale University note, "Historical names are a source of knowledge. Tradition often carries wisdom that is not immediately apparent to the current generation; no generation stands alone at the end of history with perfect moral hindsight. . . . A presumption of continuity in campus names helps ensure that the University does not elide the moral complexity often associated with the lives of those who make outsized impressions on the world."<sup>18</sup> We do anticipate, however, there will be exceptional instances in which renaming is appropriate to reflect a new understanding or awareness regarding a namesake and the principal legacy of the namesake that conflicts fundamentally with the University's core values.

### *Deliberation*

Consideration of naming and renaming is a complicated issue lacking a universal formula or checklist. Each naming or renaming must be considered on its own via a careful, informed, inclusive, and deliberative process.

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<sup>18</sup> The idea that buildings, spaces, statues, and other monuments are means by which the past speaks to the present about legacies and meanings, which may be complex and multi-faceted, are reflected in the inscription on the Alma Mater sculpture at the University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign which reads "To thy happy children / of the future / those of the past / send greetings." The Alma Mater sculpture has been a long-time and prominent public symbol for the university.

## Recommendations

Drawing upon the articulation of the University's Core Values and the recommended Guiding Principles, we make the following recommendations:<sup>19</sup>

### A. General

1. The Advisory Committee on University History (ACUH) should be established as a permanent committee. The committee should include the University Historian and representation from groups such as the University Archives, All-University Honors Committee, Senate Equity and Diversity Committee, and the Senate Social Concerns Committee as voting or *ex officio* members. Every University of Minnesota campus should be represented and committee members should include staff, students (including student government representatives), faculty, alumni, and members of the public. The role of this permanent committee shall be: (a) to consider renaming and name removal issues, and the possibilities of future, more diverse naming; and (b) to foster in a broad and substantive manner ongoing public discussion and dissemination of knowledge about University history, in keeping with the University's core values of diversity, discovery and the search for truth, sharing knowledge in a learning environment, and the other core values articulated above. This work shall be achieved through committing University resources to establish a wide array of initiatives including the creation of new courses to contextualize the issues raised by exhibits such as "A Campus Divided"; high-profile lectures that engage University history through an exploration with contemporary social issues; and workshops with diverse constituencies on campus and in the wider Twin Cities communities to foster public discussion about the role of the university today.<sup>20</sup>

2. We recommend the Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester campuses to create consultative groups of a size and composition appropriate for their campuses that will provide input on potential renaming issues prior to their consideration by the ACUH. Representatives from these consultative groups would be included in the overall Advisory Committee on University History.

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<sup>19</sup> The committee recognizes that some of its recommendations require initial and ongoing activities and actions and recommends that the Office of the President (or its designee) designate the appropriate University administrative or governance office that would be the responsible and accountable party for the activities and actions.

<sup>20</sup> With the submission of this report, the work of the current Advisory Committee on University History has completed. There is no presumption in this recommendation that the size or membership of the current ACUH would carry over to the newly-created permanent committee. Over the weeks, a subcommittee of the ACUH that had begun discussing means to further knowledge and discussion of University history and its implications for the University's present and future will continue to meet and discuss these possibilities. We will forward to President Kaler and Provost Hanson the subcommittee's suggestions for such activities and initiatives when they are complete and we will post them on the ACUH website. If a future ACUH is created as proposed in this report, these suggestions can be forwarded to and reviewed by that committee for its consideration.

3. Convert the administrative process for honorary naming to a full Administrative Policy that is established through the normal policy creation process and is housed in the University Policy Library. Currently, the process is located on the University Awards and Honors page and is maintained by the University Awards and Honors Program. The Board of Regents Naming policy directs the President to create and maintain such administrative policies (Section VIII. Subd. 2).

## **B. Honorary Namings**

1. The present administrative process on honorary namings (University Awards and Honors page) lists current faculty or staff, a member of the University Foundation or alumni as those eligible to nominate individuals for honorary namings. Students and members of the public should also be among those eligible to nominate individuals for honorary namings.

2. Additional consultative assistance should be provided for the All-University Honors Committee in their deliberations regarding all honors including building naming and renaming. This would be in the form of *ex officio* representation from one or more of the Advisory Committee on University History, Equity and Diversity Committee and Social Concerns Committee. The additional *ex officio* members can advise on issues of naming and renaming from University history, equity and diversity perspectives.

3. The University's current built environment and space is what visitors and members of the campus community experience daily. That environment appropriately honors and recognizes those individuals who had significant impact on the University. Significant contributions to our University and to society in general have been made by individuals from all backgrounds—but that diversity is often not reflected in building naming nominations. This is, in part, because the nomination process is not widely known and there is no clear pathway to promote diversity in the nomination process.

Therefore, we recommend an addition to the honorary naming nomination process. One-page pre-naming proposals, providing an introduction to potential naming candidates, should be prepared and evaluated to determine if potential honorary namings are consistent with the University's commitment to a diverse and reflective campus environment. The pre-naming proposals can be submitted at any time and will be publicly requested annually to encourage submissions from all University constituencies. They will be recorded and serve as a starting list for honorary naming consideration and provide a ready database of names to promote a broad representation of the University's history and values. This recommendation in effect builds a database of potential naming possibilities for campus consideration, rather than relying solely on situation-specific naming proposals as in the current process. The Crookston, Duluth, Morris, and Rochester campuses should establish a representative body appropriate to that campus to conduct an initial screen of pre-naming proposals.

The Honorary Naming Subcommittee, one of the subcommittees of the Advisory Committee on University History, should be formed to collect and evaluate the pre-naming proposals coming from any of the University system campuses. The Honorary Naming Subcommittee will be

chaired by the chair of the Advisory Committee on University History and will further consist of representatives from the All-University Honors Committee, the University of Minnesota Foundation, the President's office and other groups such as the Senate's Equity and Diversity Committee and Social Concerns Committee. A subcommittee-approved pre-naming proposal can then be expanded to a formal honorary naming nomination by the persons responsible for the original submission. The subsequent formal honorary naming nomination will be evaluated by the All-University Honors Committee based on the individual's accomplishments and naming fit for the function and occupants of the building.

4. We recommend the use of campus mapping and GIS tools to make clear where naming opportunities exist on campus. Knowing where the University's historic elements exist and how they interact with each other and contribute to the University as a whole is critical to thoughtful decision making. University of Minnesota GIS Service Center offers data rich interactive GIS mapping and analytics that would benefit ACUH. New buildings, adding honorary names to buildings currently named for function or location, and on infrequent occasions removing a current building name will provide opportunities to change the University's experienced environment gradually. An inventory of potential naming locations through mapping and GIS, as proposed here, provides a tool to further enable proactive changes to our collectively experienced built space rather than relying solely on episodic opportunities that arise through name removals or new buildings.

5. The University of Minnesota recognizes that its campuses are historic physical places driven by the University's core values and its strategic vision and academic plan. Campus Master Plans define a conceptual and physical framework, guided by master plan principles and goals, for making physical changes to campus over time. The plans describe the long-term vision for each campus as well as short-term implementation goals. They include guidance on land use, buildings and infrastructure, open space, natural features, and circulation networks for movement to, from, and around each campus. To effectively guide campus development decisions and operationalize its directives, Master Plans are consulted throughout every planning and design effort to ensure its influence on project formulation, site selection, and design development. Master Plans also inform the University's capital planning process and guide daily operational decisions. All initiatives that affect the land use, buildings, open spaces, landscape, and infrastructure of each campus are subject to a formal review and approval process to ensure conformance with Master Plans.

Given the significance of the Campus Master Plans in the development of the University's physical space, we recommend that master planning and implementation processes for all campus locations include consultation with the Advisory Committee on University History or one of the campus consultative groups proposed in A.2 above. Consultation could take the form of inclusion of an ACUH or consultative group member on the appropriate Campus Master Planning committee.<sup>21</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Current Campus Master Plans are available at <https://cppm.umn.edu/resource-center/campus-master-plans>.

6. As noted in B.3, the campus environment and built space should appropriately honor and recognize those individuals who have had significant impact on and importance for the University. To that end, we recommend that each of the five System campuses recognize the Dakota and Ojibwe heritage of the land that they are upon through appropriate markers or signage.

7. The committee does not see any need to change Section IV. Subd. 1-3 of the Board of Regents Policy on Namings, which is the section on honorary namings.

### **C. Naming of Buildings for Past Presidents and Chancellors**

1. Currently, the authority to name, rename or revoke the naming of buildings for past University presidents rests exclusively with the Board of Regents (Board of Regents Policy on Namings, Section IV, Subd. 4.)<sup>22</sup> We recommend that the Board of Regents amend its Namings policy so that the process of naming, renaming or revoking the naming of University buildings after past presidents follows the same review path as that of other honorary namings. It is important to signify that this process is as deliberative and consultative as other honorary namings. Although current Regents Policy on naming for past presidents does not specifically address namings referencing past chancellors, we recommend that consideration of naming, renaming, or revoking naming for past chancellors follow the same process as that for presidents.

### **D. Removing the Name from or Renaming Buildings or Significant University Assets**

1. Consideration of removing the name from or renaming buildings or significant University assets should be done with reference to the Guiding Principles of *Change, Diversity, Preservation, Exceptionality, and Deliberation* and the University's Core Values. We refer the reader to the discussion of these principles and values above.

2. All inquiries into building name changes, including name removal or renaming, should consist of an informed review of the history of the naming, the major legacy of the individual or individuals, and rationales for and against changing the naming. As noted in D.1., the review would be guided by the Guiding Principles and Core Values articulated at the outset of this report. As with naming a building, any member of the community, including the public, can request initiation of a name removal or renaming process. The proposal to rename or revoke a naming would be submitted to the Advisory Committee on University History.

3. The Advisory Committee on University History would investigate and evaluate the proposed renaming or removal of a name and would forward a recommendation for or against a name removal to the President's Office prior to the recommendation being forwarded to the Board of Regents for their official decision. Rather than specify in this report the precise details regarding what must be included in a proposal or the procedure to investigate and evaluate proposals, we consider the development of those procedures to be the purview of a newly-created ACUH. A name removal proposal might operate in a fashion generally similar to the nomination packets

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<sup>22</sup> <http://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/policies/Namings.pdf>

required for honorary naming, with comparable requirements for documentation. Such a process would, as in the naming process, require research and dossier preparation to support a proposal for renaming or name revocation. The ACUH itself would also conduct its own research into the proposed renaming or name revocation. As noted above in D.2, this research would include, with guidance from the Guiding Principles and Core Values, an informed review of the history of the naming, the major legacy of the individual or individuals, and rationales for and against changing the naming.<sup>23</sup>

4. In the case of a renaming, where a building or space would receive a new name, the All University Honors Committee would follow its usual procedure for building namings after the Board of Regents had made a decision to remove a naming.

5. In addition to a recommendation for or against removing a name, the ACUH could also suggest alternative actions or steps that the University might take in response to the issues raised in the renaming/revoking investigation. These steps could include, for example, new or revised public markers, exhibits, academic and public programming, or other initiatives.

To summarize:

- the Advisory Committee on University History considers pre-proposals for namings (section B.3 above) and is responsible for considering name removal (section D.2).
- The All-University Honors Committee, as at present, would remain responsible for new namings of buildings, spaces, and significant University assets and would not be involved in the name removal process. The approach to consideration of a new name for a previously named building should be a deliberative and consultative process like that for honorary namings. The All-University Honors Committee would make a recommendation to the President and the Board of Regents as it does in its usual process of naming recommendations for new or currently unnamed buildings, spaces, or significant University assets.

## **E. Educating the University Community and the Public about Building Names, Name Removals and Renamings**

1. The naming, name removal or renaming of any building or significant University asset should be accompanied by a public display outlining the history of the naming, including the individual's major achievements and impact on the University, and an open and candid discussion of the rationale for name removal or renaming. This display should be within the

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<sup>23</sup> The University of Maryland, in considering a case involving the name of a stadium, provides a useful template and starting point for constructing a process by which a permanent ACUH might evaluate proposals to remove or change a building name, particularly in articulating the major reasons for and against a change. See pages 1-6, particularly from "Introduction" on page 2 through page 6, of <https://www.president.umd.edu/sites/president.umd.edu/files/documents/Arguments-for-&-against-stadium-name-change.pdf>. A document resulting from deliberation of the ACUH, in addition to articulating the reasons for and against a name change, would (unlike the Maryland template) also provide a recommendation to the president.

building in a prominent location and, where appropriate, featured in other communications channels where the building and its naming are featured. In this way, the history of the naming and renaming decisions will be highlighted publicly and available for exploration by the University community and the community at large. The process and guidelines for ensuring these displays take place are within the purview of the Advisory Committee on University History and their curation should be a collaborative effort between the parties involved in the naming/renaming proposal and relevant resources across the System. In instances where the Advisory Committee on University History, President, and Board of Regents recommend against a name removal, a similar display to that described above is suggested to promote an open and candid discussion about why a naming was retained.

2. The process by which buildings and other significant University assets are named is not well known to the University or the larger communities. We have a responsibility to describe the deliberative and consultative process to the community and to help describe the space we walk through and experience on a daily basis. These goals could be accomplished by regularly drawing attention to a building, its honorary namesake and the naming process. This could take the form of a MN Daily article, press release, social media post or on-site ceremony where the history involved in the naming could be discussed. Notable anniversary dates of a building or space (e.g., 10 years, 25 years, etc.) could be used as opportunities to remind the campus community about the history behind a naming.

#### **F. Current Proposals to Rename University Buildings**

1. The committee was not charged with examining the merits of renaming any current campus buildings but at the same time recognizes that the current controversy over several building names is what led to the formation of the committee. In the sections above, we have outlined a process for handling name changes, a process that could be applied to the building names currently concerning members of the campus community. We recommend that the new process recommended above be considered and implemented in whole or part and that current proposals to change building names be reviewed through this new process and procedure.

#### **Conclusion**

The members of the President's and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History thank President Kaler and Provost Hanson for the formation of this committee and for our opportunity to serve. We also recognize in closing the debt the University owes to the research and efforts of Emerita Professor Riv-Ellen Prell, doctoral student Sarah Atwood, and all those who were involved in the development of the physical and digital versions of the "A Campus Divided" exhibit. The exhibit inspired the formation of this committee and modeled the substantive contributions a future and permanent Advisory Committee on University History might make.

## Appendix

### *Members of the President's and Provost's Advisory Committee on University History*

- Shakeer Abdullah, Assistant Vice President, Office of Equity and Diversity, Twin Cities
- Kevin Adah, Student Representative, Duluth
- Alejandro Baer, Associate Professor, Sociology & Director of the Center for Holocaust & Genocide Studies, Twin Cities
- Marjorie Wall Bingham, History Teacher, St. Louis Park High School
- Susanna Blumenthal, Professor, History & Law School, Twin Cities
- Rose Brewer, Professor, African-American and African Studies, Twin Cities
- Michelle Brownlee, Student Representative, Morris
- Robert Burgett, Vice President, University of Minnesota Foundation, Twin Cities
- David Chang, Professor, History, Twin Cities
- John Coleman, Dean, College of Liberal Arts (Committee Chair)
- Janice Conway-Klaassen, Associate Professor, Center for Allied Health Programs, Twin Cities
- Rebecca Crooks-Stratton, Program Director, Native Governance Center
- Liana Dawson, Black Student Union Representative, Twin Cities
- Monica Delgado, President, Student Unions & Activities Board of Governors, Twin Cities
- Emma Dunn, Student Representative, Hillel Minnesota, Twin Cities
- William Durfee, Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Twin Cities
- Michael Gaudio, Professor, Art History, Twin Cities
- Robert Geraghty, Professor, Center for Drug Design & Chair of the All-U Honors Committee, Twin Cities
- Luella Goldberg, Lifetime Trustee, Carlson School of Management
- Allen Isaacman, Regents Professor of History, Twin Cities
- Keerthanaa Jeeva, Professional student government representative, Twin Cities
- Sylvia Kaplan, Board Member, J Street
- Mina Kian, Minnesota Student Association Representative, Twin Cities
- Leanna Leverich, Council of Graduate Students' Director of University Relations, Twin Cities
- Lisa Lewis, President and CEO of University of Minnesota Alumni Association, Twin Cities
- James Litsheim, Capital Planning & Project Management Project Manager, University Services, Twin Cities
- Erik Moore, University Archivist, Twin Cities
- Leslie Morris, Associate Professor, German, Scandinavian, & Dutch & Director, Center for Jewish Studies, Twin Cities
- Kevin Murphy, Professor, History & American Studies, Director, Heritage Studies & Public History, Twin Cities
- Sharon Neet, Professor, History, Crookston
- Ingrid Nuttall, Manager, Enterprise Systems & Chair, Social Concerns Committee, Twin Cities
- Ann Pflaum, University Historian, Twin Cities
- Mary Beth Sancomb Moran, Librarian and archivist, Rochester

- Corbin Smyth, Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Life, Duluth
- Jennifer Webb, Associate Professor, Art History, Duluth
- Kevin Whalen, Assistant Professor, History and Native American and Indigenous Studies, Morris
- David Wilkins, Professor, American Indian Studies, Twin Cities
- John Wright, Professor, English and African-American and African Studies, Twin Cities