

Oklahoma State University Policy and Procedures

CONSIDERATION OF REMOVING NAMES OF FACILITIES

1-0540
GENERAL UNIVERSITY
April 2019

PURPOSE

1.01 This procedure will govern requests for removal of names from Facilities pursuant to the OSU/A&M Board of Regents' Policy for Naming University Facilities at Oklahoma State University (Policy Manual, 2.16).

1.02 By resolution duly adopted, the Student Government Association (SGA) Senate, the Faculty Council or the Staff Advisory Council may initiate a request to consider removal of the name of a Facility by submitting a resolution satisfying the provisions of Section 2.1 of this Procedure to the President of the University.

PROCESS

2.01 The resolution shall set forth the following:

- 1) The name of the Facility for which the request is made.
- 2) A short description of the principal reason(s) for requesting the change.
- 3) A thoughtful and thorough discussion of the following questions as they relate to the current name of the Facility:
 - a) What is the history of the Facility in question?
 - b) What is the historical context of the namesake?
 - c) What was (were) the fundamental reason(s) for the original naming of the Facility?
 - d) Is a principal legacy of the namesake fundamentally at odds with the mission of the University?
 - e) Was the relevant principal legacy significantly contested in the time and place in which the namesake lived?
 - f) Did the University, at the time of naming, honor the namesake for reasons that are fundamentally at odds with the mission of the University?
 - g) Does a Facility 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?
 - h) Are there other factors which should be taken into account?

2.02 A committee consisting of the President of the SGA, Chair of the Faculty Council, Chair of the Staff Advisory Council, President of the OSU Foundation and the President of the OSU Alumni Association shall meet to consider the resolution and, by majority vote, determine if the resolution should be referred to the Facilities Planning and Space Utilization Committee (FPSU) for full consideration (See P&P Letter 1-0123, Facilities Planning and Space Utilization

Committee). If the determination is not to refer the resolution to the FPSU, the group submitting the resolution may appeal to the President, whose decision shall be final.

2.03 If the resolution is referred to the FPSU, it shall consider the request for removal of the name under the following guidelines:

- 1) There is a presumption against the change of the names of Facilities. Consequently, names of Facilities should not be changed without careful deliberation and offering a well-documented benefit to the University.
- 2) Consideration must be given to the historical or other meaningful significance of the Facilities' current name related to the University's existence and /or past development.
- 3) Consideration must be given to the potential costs of any and all structural changes to the Facility and other less tangible benefits/costs to the University's image or reputation brought about by a name change.
- 4) The FPSU shall review the responses in the resolution to the questions set forth above in 2.1(3) and conduct such further review as is reasonably necessary to have a thorough understanding of the issues.
- 5) The FPSU should draw upon the expertise of faculty, administration or staff who may provide insight into the issues presented by the resolution.

2.04 After careful consideration and deliberation, the FPSU may recommend removal of the name from the Facility by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. If unable to reach a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote, the FPSU may, by majority vote, recommend that (1) a plaque or exhibit providing historical context of the namesake be placed in an appropriate location within the Facility or (2) no action be taken.

2.05 Upon receipt of a recommendation of the FPSU to remove a name, the President will determine whether or not to present the recommendation to the Board of Regents for its action. If the OSU/A&M Board of Regents approves removal of the name, an appropriate plaque may be placed in a suitable location recognizing the prior name of the Facility. Any recommendation from the FPSU for placement of a plaque or exhibit providing historical context shall be approved or disapproved in the discretion of the President.

Approved by:

Faculty Council, October 9, 2018
Council of Deans, October 11, 2018
Executive Team, January 14, 2019
Board of Regents, April 26, 2019