

D-6. NAME REMOVAL AND CONTEXTUALIZATION POLICY

The Board of Trustees recognizes that names of University buildings and other structures are a reflection of Auburn's enduring traditions and values and advance contextual learning of the University's distinct culture.

When conducting an evaluation on potential removal of a name or contextualization of a building or structure, the Board will endeavor to ensure the University's physical environment supports the University's values as reflected in the Auburn Creed and is consistent with Auburn's mission to improve the lives of the people of Alabama, the nation, and the world through forward-thinking education, life-enhancing research, extension, scholarship, and selfless service.

The Board and/or any working group appointed by the Board to evaluate the potential removal of a name of a building and/or structure shall take a disciplined, consistent and comprehensive approach to the evaluation, including thorough consideration to the following:

1. The holistic legacy of the namesake under consideration and whether it is consistent with or contradicts the University's mission and the Auburn Creed. Name removal should be an exceptional event with the presumption against such removal when the naming is for someone who made significant, lasting and/or unique contributions.
2. The University's obligations, as an academic institution of higher education, to recognize and contextualize history. In applying this factor, the Board should consider whether preservation of an accurate portrayal of history is best served by removing a name or by placing the existing name in historical context to further the important mission of educating students and the public.
3. The role that the building or memorial plays in forming community at the University. As the Board evaluates the way the institution utilizes the named structure (e.g. as a residence hall, an academic building, an athletics facility, etc.), it should consider the impact of history and context on the campus environment and promote challenging conversation, which is a healthy component of the academic process.
4. The length of time since the building and/or structure under consideration was named.

The Board appointed a special Task Force to conduct a thorough evaluation of all University buildings or structures named prior to adoption of this Policy ("Currently Named Buildings or Structures"). The Task Force has been asked to evaluate all Currently Named Buildings or Structures utilizing the four criteria above. The Task Force will present recommendations for removal of a name and/or contextualization of Currently Named Buildings or Structures, if any, to the Board for consideration. The recommendation of the Task Force with the approval of the full Board of Trustees will be final and complete regarding all existing buildings unless the Board becomes aware of significant negative facts directly related to the namesake that may occur after the passage of this Policy.

This Policy shall also apply to name removal considerations for buildings named after the effective date of this Policy. When evaluating buildings or structures for consideration hereunder, the Board will consider facts that were not known at the time of the original naming or that occurred subsequent to the original naming of such building or structure. The purpose of this disciplined approach is to apply holistic criteria consistent with Auburn's objective to make an informed decision on any name removal.

ADOPTED: November 20, 2020
REVISED: April 16, 2021