

WOFFORD COLLEGE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES' POLICY FOR THE HONORIFIC NAMING OF CAMPUS BUILDINGS AND PUBLIC SPACES (HEREINAFTER COLLECTIVELY "SPACES")

Wofford College's statement of core values proclaims the college's commitment to nine core values derived from its faith-based tradition and the liberal arts' foundational humanist values. Key among these core values are integrity and diversity and inclusiveness. To demonstrate authentic integrity, Wofford must evidence steadfast adherence to its stated mission, which focuses on the development of "excellence in character, performance, leadership, service to others and lifelong learning." Insistence on excellence and integrity extends beyond the Wofford student community. If the college is to reflect its values and mission with untarnished honor, it must insist on its own integrity and an unwavering commitment to building an inclusive Wofford College.

To be an institution of integrity, the college must engage with its past and present honestly and intentionally. In so doing, it must be guided by its values. It must decide if an honor once bestowed must be acknowledged in perpetuity or if such honors shall be subject to review and possible change if subsequent inquiry calls the recognition into question. Furthermore, it must be certain that persons in whose honor currently undesignated campus spaces and future campus buildings will be named are persons whose characters and contributions are consistent with the college's core values.

Bestowing or removing an honorific designation from a campus building or public space shall not be done lightly or without transparency. It shall only be accomplished as an action of the board of trustees at the conclusion of a clearly-articulated procedure that allows for input from multiple constituencies. This policy is designed to guide that process.

SCOPE OF POLICY:

This policy applies only to the names Wofford College has assigned or will assign honorifically in the future to campus buildings or public spaces. It does not apply to current spaces named in recognition of a donor's/donors' gift or to spaces whose names are or will be specified by gift agreements. The names given to spaces in a donor's honor or at a donor's request are governed by the terms of the donor's gift agreement with the college, as approved by the board of trustees. The terms, if any, under which such spaces' names may be altered shall be clearly delineated in the executed gift agreement.

PROCESS FOR REQUESTING NAMING OR CHANGING THE NAME OF A SPACE

Requests that the college consider initially naming or changing the name of an honorifically designated space shall follow a consistent, deliberate review process. Such requests must be in writing and may originate from a member or members of the extended Wofford community, whether alumni/alumnae, administrators, faculty, staff, student or any member of the college's board of trustees. Requests shall include the evidentiary sources the requester believes substantiates the request.

The request must be submitted to the Office of the President, or to the president's designee, for referral to the college's Committee on History, Memory and Commemoration. Following its review, the committee will forward its

recommendation to the president or the president's designee, who will then submit the request, along with the president's recommendation, to the board of trustees for referral to the board's ad hoc committee on honorific designations, to be appointed by the chair.

After its review, the ad hoc committee will submit its recommendation to the full board for its action, which may be to approve, reject, or modify the request.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING HONORIFIC NAMING REQUESTS FOR EXISTING UNDESIGNATED SPACES OR FUTURE NON-DONORIFIC SPACES

Requests for naming spaces are evaluated based upon the strength of the requester's submitted supporting evidence or additional materials discovered by the Committee on History, Memory and Commemoration during its review. Reviews of historical personages will contextualize those persons' activities within the time period in which they lived. Reviews must consider the historical ambiguities and complexities that have shaped human behaviors and values in the past.

Naming proposals shall include the following:

- The proposed honoree's/honorees' specific contributions to Wofford College or to humanity that make the college's recognition appropriate should be delineated and discussed in as much detail as possible.
- The evidentiary sources the proposing party identified to substantiate the honoree's/honorees' meritorious contributions and where they were obtained.

The following principles will be considered in evaluating a requested space naming:

- The person or persons for whom a building or space is to be named made an extraordinary contribution to Wofford College or to humanity.
- The proposed honoree or honorees demonstrate exceptional character and commitment to Wofford College and/or its core values.
- The proposed honoree or honorees have not committed a significant and serious violation of state, federal or recognized international human rights law.
- The honoree or honorees have not been demonstrated to advocate in word or deed mistreatment of other persons.
- Recognition of the proposed honoree or honorees will demonstrate Wofford's commitment to equity and inclusivity.

CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING NAME CHANGES OF EXISTING HONORIFICALLY NAMED SPACES

Requests that spaces be renamed are evaluated based upon the strength of the requester's included scholarly historical evidence or supporting evidence discovered by the Committee on History, Memory and Commemoration during its investigation. Reviews of historical personages will contextualize those persons' activities within the time period in which they lived. Reviews must consider the historical ambiguities and complexities that have shaped human behaviors and values in the past.

The following principles will be considered in evaluating a requested space name change:

- The person or persons for whom a building or space is named committed a significant and serious violation of state, federal, or recognized international human rights law prior to or after the space's naming.
- The offense or offenses identified in the request are defining characteristics of the honoree's career or most significant historical legacy.
- The honoree or honorees were significantly and intentionally involved in illegal or reprehensible behavior that can be documented.
- The honoree or honorees held hateful and/or offensive social viewpoints that were egregious even when considering prevailing mores during her/his/their lifetime.
- The honoree or honorees did or did not demonstrate significant change/moderation/evolution in his/her/their offensive beliefs over time.
- The honoree or honorees made or did not make a significant, transformative contribution to the College that materially improved the college's educational mission and the lives of its students.

EVALUATION OF REQUESTED CHANGES TO HONORIFIC SPACES AS A RESULT OF A DONOR GIFT

Requests to re-designate honorifically named spaces in recognition of a donor's gift will be submitted to the president for evaluation and recommendation. Any recommendation will be transmitted to the board of trustees. Following consideration by the board's Committee on Advancement, the committee will forward its recommendation to the full board, which may, in its sole discretion approve, reject or modify the request. If approved, the re-designation will be subject to the **Failure to Pay Clause for Capital Projects**, as formulated by the Office of Philanthropy and Engagement, and any additional terms mutually agreed upon by the donor and the board.