

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
NAMING COMMITTEE  
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY  
CHARLESTON, ILLINOIS**

**January 20, 2021 8:30 AM via Zoom**

**Call to Order and Roll Call**

Roll was called. Members present: Carlos Amaya – Presidential Appointee, Diane Burns – Council of Chairs, Angie Campbell – Staff Senate, Mona Davenport – Presidential Appointee, Don Holly – Faculty Senate, Claudia Janssen-Danyi – CAA, and Ken Wetstein, VPUA (ex-officio).

Guests in attendance: April Marchuk, Assistant to VPUA, Dave Fopay, JG-TC and Cassandra Smith, WCIA 3/WCIX 49.

**Approval of Minutes**

A roll call vote was taken to approve the minutes of the December 3, 2020 meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously with the exception of Diane Burns, who abstained.

VP Wetstein stated that Sace Elder recused herself from serving on the Committee as she felt it was a conflict of interest since she serves as chair of the History Department and the department endorses the Douglas Hall name be removed. Diane Burns will take her place as representative for the Council of Chairs.

**Report from Sub-Committee on Methods for Soliciting Feedback from Constituents**

VP Wetstein reported that the subcommittee of the Naming Committee met on January 14, 2021. He noted that he was informed by legal counsel that if a quorum of the subcommittee meets, that meeting is subject to the Open Meetings Act, so the January 14<sup>th</sup> meeting was recorded and is available for public viewing on the Naming Committee website.

VP Wetstein said the subcommittee recommends feedback, comments and information be stored in a SharePoint folder with access available to only Committee members.

The subcommittee discussed reaching out to the following constituents for feedback: EIU students, including various student groups, employees, alumni, annuitants, the surrounding community and possibly the general public.

**Survey Design Assignment and Forum Questions Assignment**

The subcommittee discussed the following methods for collecting feedback:

- Online surveys
- Open forums
- Guest speakers with expertise on how other universities are handling similar issues and speakers with knowledge on the Lincoln Douglas Debates and Stephen Douglas.
- Public comments
- Individual communications

The subcommittee decided that the question the Committee needs to answer is how important is it for EIU to commemorate the Lincoln Douglas Debate on campus. If the committee concludes that it is important, is the naming of a residence hall the preferred way to commemorate the debate?

Committee members volunteered for various assignments including designing the survey, facilitating forums and gathering information on previous Naming Committee reviews on this issue.

### **Public Comment**

VP Wetstein said that he received a telephone call from Jerry Groninger of Mattoon, Illinois. Mr. Groninger is a friend of EIU and a fan and supporter of EIU athletics. He asked that his comments be shared with the committee. He stated that the Douglas Hall name should be retained and that history cannot be rewritten and should not be confused with political correctness.

### **Frequency of Meetings for Spring Semester**

Committee meetings will be scheduled every other Wednesday at 8:30 a.m.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.