

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

**October 22, 2020, 1:00 PM via Zoom**

**Introductions and Roll Call**

Roll was called and the Committee members introduced themselves and the area they represent. Members present: Angie Campbell – Staff Senate, Mona Davenport – Presidential Appointee, Sace Elder – Council of Chairs, Don Holly – Faculty Senate, Claudia Janssen-Danyi - CAA, Noor Khamisani – Student Senate and Ken Wetstein, VPUA (ex-officio). Members absent: Carlos Amaya – Presidential Appointee

Guests in attendance: David Glassman, President, April Marchuk, Assistant to VPUA, Dustin White, ITS.

**Open Meetings Act Requirements**

The OMA requires that meetings be live streamed and recorded and accessible to the public for a minimum of 18 months.

**Charge to the Committee from President Glassman**

President Glassman charged the Naming Committee with the task of reviewing the matter of whether Douglas Hall should be renamed or whether the name should be retained. This subject has been formally reviewed twice in the last decade. Lincoln and Douglas Halls were originally named to commemorate the debate between Abraham Lincoln and Stephen Douglas which took place on the Coles County fairgrounds in 1858. These previous reviews resulted in recommendations that the building's name be retained. The 2011 recommendation included a display of the historical context to be displayed for educational purposes. This display is currently located in Stevenson Hall. Recently there has been renewed interest in exploring the possibility of renaming the building. Individuals in the EIU and local community have voiced concerns that the name does not fit EIU's mission and vision due to the pro-slavery views of Steven Douglas.

The Committee will be responsible for conducting an unbiased review of this issue. The Committee will gather information and viewpoints from constituents including past and present EIU faculty and staff; alumni; members of the Charleston and Coles County community; students and Registered Student Organizations (RSO's); and the EIU Student Government. The Committee will review and analyze all the information and feedback gathered and either recommend to retain the name, recommend the name to be changed, or report that the Committee could not reach a consensus.

The President will share the recommendations of the Naming Committee with the President's Council and the Board of Trustees.

A timeline was set for recommendations to be presented to the President by late March or early April 2021.

Sace Elder, chair of the History Department, disclosed a potential conflict in her role on the committee: the History Department sent a memo to the President requesting the removal of the name on the building. Sace Elder was a signatory to that letter.

The President will send the Committee the data from previous reviews and any correspondence he has received relating to the matter. V.P. Wetstein will consult with Laura McLaughlin, General Counsel, concerning procedures for maintaining the anonymity and privacy of individuals who share comments and communications.

### **Committee Chair Selection**

Mona Davenport nominated Angela Campbell to serve as the Naming Committee chair. Motion passed 5 to 0, 1 member abstained.

### **Public Comment**

A time limit of 20 minutes total has been set for the public comment portion of the Naming Committee meetings. Ms. Jan Nickell of Mt. Zion, IL joined the electronic meeting and offered public comment in support of retaining the name of Douglas Hall.

### **Proposed Naming: Student Art Gallery**

The Committee discussed a proposal to rename the undergraduate student art gallery in the Doudna Fine Arts Center the “Glenn Hild Student Art Gallery”. Claudia Jansen-Danyi made a motion to recommend this proposal to President Glassman, seconded by Mona Davenport. Motion passed unanimously.

The President will share this recommendation with the President’s Council and the recommendation will be presented to the Board of Trustees at their November 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting.

### **Future Meetings Frequency and Schedule**

The Committee will schedule meetings every 2 weeks through the end of the fall 2020 semester.

### **Other Discussion**

The Committee talked about the best way to provide information and address inquiries from the campus community and the public and the logistics of creating a central document repository for the Committee. These topics will be included as agenda items for the next meeting. V.P. Wetstein advised that all press inquiries should be directed to Josh Reinhart.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m. by unanimous consent.