

To: University Steering Committee

From: Russell S. Hassan.125, Chair, Diversity Committee
Roaya Higazi.1, President of the Undergraduate Student Government
Ken Lee.133, Vice-Chair of Faculty Council

Subject: Writing committee report on the name of Bricker Hall

Date: March 17, 2021

As charged by Steering at our 3/11/21 meeting, this three-person writing team recommends the following text for ratification of two motions before the University Senate. Please let us know if additional clarity or discussion is needed. Thank you for this opportunity to possibly place this on the March Senate agenda.

A Resolution to Remove the Bricker Name from the University Administration Building

SYNOPSIS: To advance greater inclusion and fulfill the university's anti-racism efforts, the Senate Diversity Committee, Undergraduate Student Government, Council of Graduate Students, and Council of Student Affairs seek the removal of the Bricker name from the building at 190 North Oval Mall in the Columbus campus.

WHEREAS John W. Bricker served as the Ohio Attorney General (1933-1937), Governor of Ohio (1939-1945), United States Senator from Ohio (1947-1959), and Member of The Ohio State University Board of Trustees (1948-1969); and

WHEREAS the Ohio State Administration Building located at 190 N Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210 was honorifically named Bricker Hall in 1983 because of "his long service to the University" [1]; and

WHEREAS Bricker Hall houses the Board of Trustees, the Office of Government Affairs, Internal Audit, the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Business and Finance, the Office of Outreach and Engagement, the Office of Research, the Office of Risk Management, the Office of University Communications, and the Office of the President; and

WHEREAS in 1933, Doris Weaver, an Ohio State Black student tried to enroll in a Home Economics course necessary to her major which required her to live in the "Grace Graham Walker House"; and

WHEREAS Doris Weaver was not permitted to live in the house with her white student peers because she was Black. She took her case to the Supreme Court of Ohio [2]; and

WHEREAS Ohio Attorney General John W. Bricker, in arguments before the Ohio Supreme Court, successfully defended the university's position of separate but equal facilities for minority students [3]; and

WHEREAS Senators John Bricker and Harry Cain introduced the Bricker-Cain amendment that was intended as a poison pill to stop senators and stop executive agencies from creating regulations prohibiting segregation [4]; and

WHEREAS the 1953 Bricker Amendment to the US Constitution was proposed to counter the possibility that segregation could be outlawed by the U.S. adoption of the United Nation's Charter, Genocide Convention, and Universal Declaration of Human Rights [5]; and

¹ <https://library.osu.edu/site/archives/2012/12/14/twelve-days-of-buckeyes-six-whove-attended-osu-have-le-d-as-ohios-governor-too/>

² <https://carmencollection.osu.edu/story/denied-campus-housing-based-color-and-tradition>

³ <https://casetext.com/case/state-ex-rel-v-trustees-2>

⁴ <https://www.prrac.org/pdf/HUD50th-CivilRightsTimeline.pdf>

⁵ https://www.jstor.org/stable/24911655?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

WHEREAS John Bricker's segregationist actions and policies prevented people of color from accessing the same resources and educational opportunities that were granted to white people; and

WHEREAS according to the Fifteenth Day Enrollment Report for the Spring 2021 semester, 7.29% of students at Ohio State identify as African American [6]; and

WHEREAS the building in which the Office of the President and the Office of the Board of Trustees are located shall set the example of the university's stated core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS the University Policy on Naming of University Spaces and Entities states "existing spaces and entities with honorific naming recognition may be renamed with the approval of President's Cabinet and the Board of Trustees. Considerations include the history of the current name and the rationale of the renaming"; and

WHEREAS the University Policy on Naming of University Spaces and Entities states that "If at any time the university determines that the continued naming of a space or entity may compromise the university's integrity or reputation, the university may amend or remove the name, upon approval by the President and Board of Trustees"; and

WHEREAS the important conclusion that "positive contributions to the university do not appear to outweigh this legacy of harm" led to the University of California, Berkeley's removal of the name of John Boalt from their Law School in 2020 for a racist role in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 [7]; and

WHEREAS the respected peer-review journal *Nature* reports "institutional renaming is only a first step towards universities examining their own racist legacies and becoming more inclusive" [8]; and

WHEREAS a resolution to remove the Bricker name from the Administration building was passed with unanimous consent in the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly on March 3, 2021 [9]; and

WHEREAS the University Senate Steering Committee agreed to place this resolution on the Senate agenda at its March 11, 2021 meeting;

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate support the removal of the Bricker name from the building at 190 North Oval Mall in the Columbus campus and seek approval of the President and the Board of Trustees.

⁶ https://oesar.osu.edu/pdf/student_enrollment/15th/enrollment/15THDAY_SPRING_2021.pdf

⁷ <https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/01/30/boalt-hall-denamed/>

⁸ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02393-3>

⁹ <https://osu.box.com/s/822hauz63cb724b1h05yxvdob5fpnsa8>

A Resolution to Review Names in Support of Diversity and Inclusion Core Values

SYNOPSIS: To advance social justice and fulfill this university's anti-racism efforts, the Senate Diversity Committee, the Undergraduate Student Government, Council of Graduate Students, and Council of Student Affairs seek a thorough review of all named buildings, structures, and entities that may compromise the university's reputation or integrity and ensure support of the university's core values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

WHEREAS removing the John Bricker name from the building at 190 North Oval Mall in the Columbus campus is justified in a prior resolution; and

WHEREAS the names of all university buildings, structures, and entities should be consistent with the university's stated values of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS former Ohio State President Michael Drake said in his 2020 Vision Speech "The Ohio State University must be a national model of inclusiveness and diversity. From our student community to the hiring and promotion of faculty and staff, diversity must be recognized and celebrated as they find in core strength" [10]; and

WHEREAS Ohio State President Kristina Johnson said in her 2021 State of the University address "it is time to move beyond access to truly reflect the people we serve — to become a place that offers every Ohioan — of any gender, sexual orientation, race, color, religious belief or national origin — their very best opportunity at an amazing life" [11]; and

WHEREAS according to the Mission, Vision, Values, and Goals of Ohio State, the university understands "that diversity and inclusion are essential components of our excellence" [12]; and

WHEREAS the University Policy on Naming of University Spaces and Entities states "If at any time the university determines that the continued naming of a space or entity may compromise the university's integrity or reputation, the university may amend or remove the name, upon approval by the President and Board of Trustees and notification of the donor, if possible"; and

WHEREAS the important conclusion that "positive contributions to the university do not appear to outweigh this legacy of harm" led to the University of California, Berkeley's removal of the name of John Boalt from their Law School in 2020 for a racist role in the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 [13]; and

¹⁰ <https://www.osu.edu/features/2015/2020-vision.html>

¹¹ <https://president.osu.edu/speeches/sotu2021>

¹² <https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

¹³ <https://news.berkeley.edu/2020/01/30/boalt-hall-denamed/>

WHEREAS the respected peer-review journal *Nature* reports “institutional renaming is only a first step towards universities examining their own racist legacies and becoming more inclusive” [14]; and

WHEREAS a resolution to implement a standardized process for the renaming of university buildings, structures, and entities on our campuses was passed with unanimous consent in the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly on March 3, 2021 [15]; and

WHEREAS a process for renaming is provided by the University Policy on Naming with approval by the President or the President’s Cabinet and the Board of Trustees; and

WHEREAS the University Senate Steering Committee agreed to place this resolution on the Senate agenda at its March 11, 2021 meeting;

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate support the review of named buildings, structures, and entities that may compromise the university’s reputation or integrity and request the President and the Board of Trustees to support this review to ensure an inclusive and welcoming environment for all members of the university community.

¹⁴ <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02393-3>

¹⁵ <https://osu.box.com/s/822hauz63cb724b1h05yxvdob5fpnsa8>