

July 8, 2020

Dear Iowa State Community,

I am writing to provide an update on creating a committee to establish a policy on the renaming of campus historical naming and honors.

Last month I shared with you [an interim action](#) to remove a plaque placed on campus in 1926 to recognize W.T. Hornaday's conservation accomplishments. Social media posts by former students brought to light the story of Hornaday's creation of a racist exhibit as first director of the Bronx City Zoo, and the tragic story of Ota Benga.

This issue revealed the need for a university policy to address questions about historical naming and honors. Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion Reginald Stewart and Faculty Senate President Carol Faber agreed to co-chair a committee to develop the policy.

I have given the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming this charge: *In recognition of Iowa State University's commitment to research and factual evidence, academic freedom and intellectual inquiry, the university charges the committee to develop a policy to ensure a consistent, evidence-based and historically thoughtful means by which to evaluate historical naming and honors. This policy will strive to provide integrity, consistency and clarity to the process in order for these principles to endure. When the committee completes this policy, a formal process will exist for the investigation of renaming issues.*

I want to thank Dr. Reginald Stewart and Assoc. Prof. Carol Faber for agreeing to lead the committee. I also thank those who accepted my invitation to serve as committee members. Members of the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming are:

- Carol Faber, Faculty Senate President (Co-Chair)
- Reginald Stewart, Vice President for Diversity and Inclusion (Co-Chair)
- LeQuetia Ancar, Assistant Director of Engineering Student Services and Director, Multicultural Student Success, College of Engineering
- Sebastian Braun, Associate Professor, Department of World Languages and Cultures
- Joseph Cheatle, Director, Writing and Media Center, Dean of Students Office
- Simon Cordery, Chair, Department of History
- Paula Deangelo, Deputy Counsel, Office of University Counsel
- Kurt Earnest, Associate Director of Residence Life, Student Engagement and Academic Excellence, Department of Residence
- Simon Estes, Adjunct Professor, Department of Music and Theatre
- Eleanor Field, President, Graduate and Professional Student Senate
- Morgan Fritz, President, Student Government

- Monica Gordillo, Associate Teaching Professor, Department of Management
- Daniel Hartwig, Head, Special Collections and University Archives, University Library
- Gloria Jones-Johnson, University Professor, Department of Sociology
- Maggie LaWare, Associate Professor, Department of English
- Sheryl Rippke, Policy Administrator, University Counsel
- Samarth Vachhrajani, Senior in Architecture, College of Design
- Amy Ward, Past President, Professional & Scientific Council, and Learning Technologies Coordinator, Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching
- Ross Wilburn, Associate Program Director and Extension and Outreach Diversity Consultant, ISU Extension and Outreach Community and Economic Development
- Brian Meyer, Associate Director for Strategic Communications, Strategic Relations and Communications (ex-officio)

A [website](#) for the Committee to Establish Principles on Renaming has been created as a source for information and updates to the university community.

I want to emphasize that the committee's charge is to develop the policy. It is not to consider or review any specific renaming issue. Once the new policy is adopted, issues on naming can be put forward under an agreed upon, consistent process in which all factual evidence can come forward for consideration and careful analysis. It will be applied to render a decision about the Hornaday plaque and an honorary degree he received from Iowa State in 1903. Also, once the new policy is in place, the issue of the naming of Catt Hall can be brought forward.

Again, I thank the members of the committee for taking on this important responsibility on behalf of our campus community.

Wendy Wintersteen
President