

Student Association President N'della Seque College Council Report

1. First, I would like to welcome the public, students, faculty, administration, news press, community members, descendants of the Huguenot families and College Council members for being present today.
2. Next, I would like to thank the **Diversity and Inclusion Council** for helping bring this matter to light by having different forums and gathering a report for us to read. I would like to thank **President Christian** for being so passionate and helpful during this process, which showed a true determined side of him throughout it all. Next, I would like to thank the **administration** for helping and guiding me throughout this process and making sure that I was okay with any information that was needed. I would also likely to give a thank you to faculty, the library staff, UUP, students, and student association.. Last, but not least, thank you to the SUNY Student Association who wrote a letter in favor of the name change as well.
3. My fellow College Council members, people are tired. People are tired of waiting for an answer that isn't just being brought up numerous times, but is favored by so many people. People are tired of the treatment students of color receive when it comes to their opinion. I am upset that a fellow student was escorted out for having the right to speak during a moment he had the right to speak. This is an act of silencing his concerns of how he felt by allowing the system to remove him in a space where he thought he could find his voice and have comfort. This happened right in Hasbrouck on July 29, 1989 when they arrested several Black men because they were engaging in activities that support the First Amendment. Students of color are tired of not having a space that better yet does not fit them nor represent them. The Village of New Paltz has no significance for the black community and that represents the lack of representation for a specific diverse population.
4. Seeing that there is support from **8** different sources that you are all aware of now and there could possibly be more, I ask that we really think about this resolution and see why the building names should be changed. After holding a program called "Let's Talk", both in the Fall and Spring semester, it was brought to my attention that students care a lot about this situation and would like for the building names to be changed. As I quote, "removing the building names does not erase history because we cannot erase something that has already been done. All we ask is for our voices and concerns to be heard and that it is acted upon," said one of the students that attended the program during the fall. So taking that comment into consideration, it compares to some of the comments made at the last College Council meeting.
5. SUNY New Paltz is not new to change. New Paltz Classical School, The State Normal School, State University Teachers College, SUNY College of Liberal Arts, and now SUNY New Paltz.... Why did this happen? Because change is natural for institutions and

it will benefit the mission and teach generations of students history. Seeing that the College Council wasn't considerate of what was going on during the era when the names were being proposed to be placed on the buildings... it is our time to be considerate.

6. To conclude, I know it was mentioned during the last meeting that students are bigger than a name on a building. Yes, you are right; we are bigger than that and that is why we decide to bring this upon all of us. We are bigger than the oppression that was set upon our ancestors who may not have had a voice, but we do today. That also allows me to know that as a College Council we are bigger than this ourselves and realize that these names are asked to be changed not only by students, but also by those who are also in favor of the name change. So to conclude, we are not erasing history, we will be erasing the terrible history that has been placed behind it. We will be marking history not only for the present, but also for the future of diversity and inclusion. Thank you.