

To: Members of the College Council

From: Shelly Wright, on behalf of Vincent Cozzolino, chair of the Study Group on Alternate Names for the Hasbrouck Building Complex

Re: Recommendations of the Study Group on Alternate Names for the Hasbrouck Building Complex (finalized on February 4, 2019)

Date: February 14, 2019

The Study Group on Alternate Names for the Hasbrouck Building Complex was created on November 15, 2018 and included the following individuals:

- a. N'della Seque, Student Association President and College Council member
- b. Vincent Cozzolino, alumnus and College Council member (chair)
- c. Ron Law, alumnus and College Council member. Ron also served on the Diversity & Inclusion Council during the Hasbrouck Naming Dialogue last year.
- d. Anne Balant, non-voting (ex-officio) faculty representative on the College Council and Presiding Officer of the Faculty
- e. Robin Cohen LaValle, non-voting (ex-officio) alumni representative on the College Council and Dean of Students
- f. Reynolds Scott Childress, co-chair of the Diversity & Inclusion Council, History Professor
- g. Veronica Claypool Butler, community member and daughter-in-law of Marjorie Butler, founder of the SUNY New Paltz Black Studies Department
- h. Michele Tejada, President of the Latin American Student Union
- i. Shelly Wright, VP for Communication and Chief of Staff, President's Office
- j. Lucy Walker, Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research

Charge of the Study Group:

The Study Group was charged by Interim Chair of the SUNY New Paltz College Council, Eli Basch, and SUNY New Paltz President, Donald Christian, with soliciting replacement names for the Hasbrouck Complex Buildings via a campuswide electronic survey. When soliciting replacement names, the group was to make clear that current SUNY policy does not allow for honorific names of buildings without a substantial financial gift.

The Study Group was asked to develop a semifinal list of 10 names for the President's Cabinet to consider and recommend to the College Council.

Summary of Survey Results

The survey was sent to 36,902 alumni, 7,720 students, 1,650 college employees and retirees and many community members. There are a total of 3,107 responses. The survey responses are anonymous and all the questions were optional.

The response rate for students is 14%, from 1,076 responses out of 7,720 students. The response rate for alumni is 4%, from 1,412 responses out of 36,902 alumni. The response rate for employees and retirees is 25%, from 416 responses out of 1,650. For students and alumni, our margin of error at a 95% confidence interval is $\pm 3\%$. This means that, in general, for most questions we are 95% sure that the true percent of the population is within $\pm 3\%$ of the survey result. For employees and retirees our margin of error at a 95% confidence interval is $\pm 4\%$. Even though employees and retirees had the highest response rate, the actual number of responses is less than students and alumni. Fewer responses means a larger margin of error.

Participants were asked to rate three different themes on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being *Strongly Favor* and 1 being *Strongly Oppose*.

Names with Local Meaning was the most popular category, with 78% of participants selecting Strongly Favor or Favor. In the comments, there are different views about what “local” means. Some felt that anything connected with the Catskills was too far away while some saw a connection to the entire state. Participants were more neutral about the *Hudson Valley Flora* category. *Personal Qualities* category was the least popular with 68% of participants opposing this category, and there were many comments against this category in the comment section.

	Strongly Favor or Favor	Neutral	Strongly Oppose or Oppose	Total
Names with Local Meaning	78%	10%	12%	2720
Hudson Valley Flora	50%	24%	26%	2667
Personal Qualities	15%	17%	68%	2647

The higher the average score the more popular that choice.

	Average Score on a Scale of 1 to 5 Scores closer to 5 mean more responses in favor of that category
Names with Local Meaning	4.1
Hudson Valley Flora	3.3
Personal Qualities	2.1

There was not agreement in the survey on whether or not the building names should be from the same category. Some survey participants thought this was a good idea since they are part of the same complex. Others thought that a variety of names would be more in alignment with the personality of our campus. The study group had no strong position on this question.

Several participants pointed out that the names should be easy to pronounce, and we should be mindful of any nicknames that could develop. They advised us to think about how it will sound when a student says “I live in x.”

Many survey participants liked the idea of names with a local connection. Others pointed out that we should be careful to research the background of any of those names.

Several survey participants suggested choosing Native American names.

Participants were asked to rate names in each of the three categories on a scale of Strongly Oppose (value of 1) to a Strongly Favor (value of 5). Local names were the most popular choices with Ashokan at the top of the list and personal qualities were at the bottom of the list. Several of the comments echo this reaction to personal qualities as a category. Many participants found this category too juvenile or thought the names were vulnerable to humorous statements.

The study group reviewed the ratings and the alternate names suggested by survey participants who responded to this open ended question:

What suggestions do you have for building names? Keep in mind that we cannot name buildings after individuals without a large financial donation, per SUNY policy. What do you think of having all building names within a certain category? Anything else you would like to share?

Based on its review of the survey results and its deliberations, the study group recommends the following 11 names (not in priority order) for consideration as consistent with campus community sentiment to identify names that speak to the specialness of our location:

1. Maratanza Hall*
2. Pond Hall*
3. Awosting Hall*
4. Minnewaska Hall*
5. Mohonk Hall*
6. Hawk Hall*
7. Peregrine Hall
8. Ashokan Hall
9. Sunset Hall
10. Tamarack Hall
11. Shawangunk Hall

*The Shawangunk Ridge has five "sky lakes" named, in order from south to north: Maratanza, Mud Pond, Awosting, Minnewaska, and Mohonk. The five residence halls could be named in a manner that mirrors this sequence, going roughly south to north, as follows:

Bevier:	Maratanza Hall
Deyo:	Pond Hall
Dubois:	Awosting Hall
Crispell:	Minnewaska Hall
LeFevre:	Mohonk Hall

If the College Council would like to give the five halls in the complex a coherent scheme, this idea does so. This scheme links directly to the nearby Shawangunk Ridge and connects to themes of regional natural history and geology, ecology, biodiversity, and sustainability. The names do not appear to be controversial or problematic:

The USS Maratanza (1862) was a steamer acquired by the Union Navy during the American Civil War. The vessel was used by the Union Navy as a gunboat to patrol navigable waterways of the Confederacy.

The name Pond Hall could replace Deyo, which actually faces the pond on campus.

Awosting is adapted from the Native American (Munsee) word, Aiaskawosting, meaning "Place of Grassy Hills."

Minnewaska is obtained "by combining two Dakota or Sioux words, mini or minne (for many) and washta or waska (for water)."

Mohonk is a corruption of the Delaware Indian word Mogonck, which some believe to mean "lake in the sky."

That leaves the dining hall, for which the committee suggests: Hawk Dining Hall. This name came up frequently in the survey comments. We are, after all, the New Paltz Hawks. Using the name of our school mascot would engender school spirit in a common gathering place for students.

Peregrine Hall: Thanks in large measure to the efforts of the late Professor Emeritus Heinz Meng, peregrine falcons now have a conservation status of "least concern (stable)." They nest freely in the cliffs of the Gunks and soar over the ridge and the campus. On a more subtle note, "peregrine" also refers to a wanderer from foreign lands -and our campus has always welcomed students regardless of their origins.

Ashokan Hall: Ashokan is an Iroquois word for "place of fish." From 1967 to 2008, the Ashokan Field Campus, an outdoor education, conference, and retreat center located in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York was once part of SUNY New Paltz. It is now the Ashokan

Center and is operated by Jay Ungar and Molly Mason, folks musicians who in 1982 wrote and composed "Ashokan Farewell," a farewell waltz performed at the annual Ashokan Fiddle & Dance Camps run by Ungar and Mason. The tune served as the title theme of the 1990 PBS TV miniseries "The Civil War," produced by Ken Burns. Ashokan is also the name of the reservoir that supplies water to New York City. It was the most popular choice among survey participants.

Sunset Hall: In recognition of the magnificent sunsets over the Shawangunk Mountains that can be viewed from the campus.

Tamarack Hall: The Tamarack is a deciduous North American larch (*Larix laricina*) growing in moist soil, having short needlelike leaves that turn yellow in the fall. Origin of tamarack. Canadian French tamarac probably of Algonquian origin.

Shawangunk Hall: For the Shawangunk Ridge visible from campus. This name came up frequently in the open comments. The English name, Shawangunk, derives from the Dutch *Scha-wan-gunk*, the closest European transcription from the colonial deed record of the [Munsee Lenape](#), Schawankunk. Lenape linguist Raymond Whritenour reports that *schawan* is an inanimate [intransitive verb](#) meaning "it is smoky air" or "there is smoky air". Its noun-like participle is *schawank*, meaning "that which is smoky air." Adding the locative suffix gives us *schawangunk* "in the smoky air."

Approved February 4, 2019

Update from President's Cabinet dated February 5, 2019:

On Tuesday, February 5, 2019, the President's Cabinet reviewed and affirmed the recommendations in the report of the study group on Alternate Names for the Hasbrouck Complex Naming. The Cabinet wanted to make the College Council aware that if the residence halls are given a naming scheme, the scheme may need to be broken if a donor provides a gift to name the building. However, there are other residence halls, such as Ridgeview, that could be renamed first if a substantial gift is offered to name a residence hall.