

**College Council Meeting  
February 21, 2019**

Voting Members Present: Mr. Basch, Mr. DiCarlo, Mr. Catalinotto, Mr. Cozzolino, Mr. Law, Dr. Venables, (phone), Ms. Seque (Student Association president), Dr. Balant (nonvoting faculty representative), Ms. Cohen-La Valle (nonvoting alumni representative).

Campus Administration Present: President Christian; Provost Arnold; Vice Presidents Halstead, Wright, Marks, Eaton and Blaisdell; Tanhena Pacheco Dunn, Associate Vice President, Human Resources, Diversity and Inclusion, and Co-Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Council. Guest: Reynolds Scott-Childress, Assistant Professor, Department of History, and Co-Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Council.

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m.

Interim Chairman's Report:

Mr. Basch called the meeting to order, introduced himself and welcomed Council members and the seated audience to the meeting. There were about 150 members of the public in attendance, including students, faculty, staff, media and community members. Mr. Basch recapped the previous Council meeting on November 1, 2018, where Council members had an opportunity to hear from students, faculty and the community about the Hasbrouck Complex building names. Mr. Basch said the Council appreciated the heartfelt and thoughtful comments they received at that meeting. He added that the comments revealed the reasoning of those who spoke in favor of changing the building names and that they made a distinct impression on the body. Since the last meeting, Mr. Basch said there had been much more study given to the subject and that it would be revisited during today's meeting.

Mr. Basch proposed adoption of the minutes of the November 1, 2018, meeting. Mr. Law moved to accept the minutes, Mr. DiCarlo seconded the motion, and they were approved by voice vote.

Mr. Basch noted that a Study Group was formed after the last Council meeting to consider potential new names for the Hasbrouck Complex buildings. If Ms. Seque's postponed resolution recommending the removal of the names of the Huguenot patentees is passed by the Council, the Study Group had compiled a slate of replacement names for the full Council's consideration based on a campuswide survey. Mr. Basch asked Mr. Cozzolino to provide an update.

Report of the Study Group on Alternate Building Names:

See attached memo. Mr. Cozzolino said that the Study Group was charged by Mr. Basch, as interim chair, and President Christian with soliciting replacement names for the Hasbrouck Complex buildings via a campuswide electronic survey should the Council vote to remove the current names. When soliciting replacement names, the group, which included students, faculty, alumni, Council members and community members, made clear that current SUNY policy does not allow for honorific names of buildings without a substantial financial gift.

Mr. Cozzolino noted that the Study Group was asked to develop a semifinal list of 10 names and chose 11 for the President's Cabinet to consider and recommend to the Council. He recognized and thanked the Study Group members individually for their efforts.

Mr. Cozzolino said that the Study Group developed and distributed a survey that went out to about 37,000 alumni, 8,000 students, 1,700 College employees and retirees and many community members, including Huguenot descendants. There were about 3,000 responses. Participants were asked to rate three different themes relative to replacement names on a scale of 1 to 5. The survey responses were anonymous, and all questions were optional. The names with local meaning had the strongest support of the survey respondents and were factored into the group's list of recommended replacement names.

Mr. Cozzolino said that the Study Group recommended the following 11 replacement names to the Council, should the Council pass Ms. Seque's postponed resolution to remove the names of the Huguenot patentees on the Hasbrouck Complex buildings. They are (not in priority order):

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

Mr. Cozzolino said that the group defined the meaning of each of those names and their connection to the region in the report.

In sum, Mr. Cozzolino said that the Study Group was wonderful and that he hoped each member felt empowered. He added that everyone participated in the decision-making process and came to general agreement about the names.

#### President's Report:

President Christian thanked Council members for traveling to campus today for this important meeting. He also welcomed and thanked students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members – including elected officials and community leaders and representatives of Historic Huguenot Street – who attended the meeting. The president said that he has been grateful to the Council throughout his presidency for their support of his leadership.

The president said that he hoped for the Council's continued support today with a yes vote on Ms. Seque's postponed resolution to rename the Hasbrouck Complex buildings. He thanked Mr. Cozzolino, Ms. Seque, Mr. Law, and others who served on the Study Group, including faculty,

staff, alumni and community members, to develop possible alternate names. The alternate names are for the Council's consideration if the body votes to support the renaming resolution. The president was impressed to learn of the robust participation in the Study Group's survey by students, employees, alumni and community members – more than 3,000 responses, a record for the campus. He said the Council would hear from Ms. Seque shortly, who would share students' views on this matter.

President Christian reiterated his position that removing the current names from the Hasbrouck Complex buildings and replacing them is the right thing to do. He recognized that it was likely impossible to gain full agreement on a complex issue such as this. That does not deter him from his position that this is the right direction. The recommendation to change these building names grew out of the careful process the College undertook during 2017-18, led by the Diversity and Inclusion Council. That process paid careful attention to the history behind these building names, the history and legacy of northern slavery, the views and perspectives of a broad array of stakeholders on our campus, the positive contributions of generations of Huguenots, and a focus on the future of supporting and welcoming all students to our campus.

The president noted that many were moved by the thoughtful voices of students at the Council's November 1 meeting. Students shared how the current building names make them and others feel unwelcomed and dismissed, and do not reflect a history that all students are part of. The students spoke about what it would mean for the names to change, and what not changing the names means to them and the College.

President Christian said that he is grateful for the many voices of support for removing and replacing these building names. They include the Student Senate and the Faculty Senate. More recently, the Board of Directors of Campus Auxiliary Services and the Executive Committee of the New Paltz chapter of United University Professions, the union that represents academic and professional faculty, have added their support. Several units and departments at SUNY New Paltz have voiced their support. The Village of New Paltz Mayor and Deputy Mayor wrote in support. The members of the President's Cabinet, who lead the various divisions of the College and who provide expertise and guidance on major institutional decisions, support this resolution. They are concerned about harm to the institution if the names are not changed and recognize the value and benefit of changing the names for the future success of the College. The president asked that letters of support be entered into the Council records and that we include them in the archives of our process on the Diversity and Inclusion Council website. See attached letters of support.

President Christian then moved to share some of his thoughts and perspectives that support his position that the names should be changed. He understands that others may not share these views.

The president spoke about his admiration and respect for the thoughtful, inclusive, evidence-informed process that the Diversity and Inclusion Council led, and in which students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members participated, openly and frankly. He has kept SUNY Chancellor Kristina Johnson and Board of Trustees Chair H. Carl McCall apprised throughout the process. The chancellor has been so impressed with how our campus approached this issue that she asked the president to speak about our process to SUNY presidential colleagues at their November meeting, as a model for how to approach complex, contentious issues.

In President Christian's judgment, the caliber of the process itself should be a significant factor in the Council's decision, beyond the resolution's broad base of support.

Throughout the process, the president has tried to keep his focus on students and on the future of SUNY New Paltz as a learning environment for an increasingly diverse student community. His empathy (and that of others) grew for current and future students who are asked to live, eat, and sleep in buildings named for those who enslaved others, perhaps especially when that history has not been portrayed openly.

Wrestling with this issue has been for President Christian a case study of white privilege – which the president knows he has benefited from in his life. The nation and its organizations have a long history of decisions and actions that consider primarily (or solely) the perspectives of white America, or that favor or benefit white people. College Council and other documents from the early 1950s noted the bravery of the Huguenots in coming to America to escape religious and political persecution in Europe and to take on the hardships of settling a new land. When the Council first assigned the names of the original Huguenot patentees to campus buildings in the 1950s this is the history that was noted. There is nothing in the record to suggest that the Council considered or recognized the reality that those same individuals enslaved Africans, or that their settlement had permanent impact on indigenous people. President Christian noted that the time is right to take a broader view of that history and the meaning behind the building names.

President Christian said that addressing issues of race and racism – as this endeavor surely does – often triggers white people to claim a loss of their own story, shifting the focus of discrimination away from those who have suffered under it. This sometimes creates a narrative to defend a status quo. The president said he believes that the New Paltz campus community can do better.

The president said that the College cannot fulfill its educational mission if seeking truth and enriching understanding of each other is viewed as a loss. This is an opportunity to act now based on a broader and more inclusive consideration of history and contemporary issues, mirroring actions by another local institution, Historic Huguenot Street. The president made clear that it is not only black and brown people who support this change but also white members of the community, including students, employees, alumni, administrators, and some Huguenot descendants. See attached letter from one Huguenot descendant.

President Christian has heard the frequent criticism that changing the building names - even if they are linked to slavery - would mean “erasing history.” He said that the thoughtful letter from our History Department provides a clear response to that criticism. Keeping the names on these buildings defends a longstanding status quo and belies the campus’s mission as a public university. The president emphasized that the goal of this entire process has been to elevate the campus’s history, tell it more fully, openly, and honestly – definitively not to erase it. The Diversity and Inclusion Council recommended, in addition to changing building names, that we “not simply replace one history with another.” To achieve that goal, the Diversity and Inclusion Council proposed a “contemplative space” on campus where future students and visitors can gather to reflect on and discuss the many elements of the school’s history, informed by educational programming and materials. This suggestion is consistent with the frequent feedback from students that they want to know more about local history and the history of campus building names.

Such a project is within President Christian’s presidential purview and he said that that work has already begun. He has appointed a working group of faculty, staff, and students who are studying and developing recommendations for such a space on campus, to tell the broader history including the history of the original Huguenots and their link to slavery, the history of enslaved people and their descendants, including the economic and racial legacies of that history, the history of the indigenous people before and after European settlement, and the many positive contributions of Huguenot descendants in the post-slavery era to the College, the community and beyond.

This group is already thinking about ways to integrate such a space into the life of the campus. The president has asked them also to recommend content for interior signage in the current Hasbrouck Complex buildings summarizing the history of these building names, including the link to slavery, and the 2017-19 campus efforts to change these building names. The College plans to complete these projects next year, and the president is already in touch with possible donors who might provide financial support.

President Christian noted that he and Ms. Seque talked recently about what it would mean to her and other students involved in this process to come back to campus as alumni in 2030 or 2040 and know the impact that they have had on better educating future students about this history. The president has also adopted that long-term thinking. Consistent with New Paltz’s mission as a public university, the campus is making every effort to have this endeavor be an educational one for all. The president said his position is consistent with the leadership role that the community wants SUNY New Paltz to take on topics of equity and inclusion. Indeed, the president sees this outcome of telling history more fully, openly, and honestly as one of the most important outcomes of this entire process.

At the outset of this endeavor in August 2017, President Christian believed that the New Paltz community could be a role model for civil discourse on a contentious issue. He said that he now

knows that this process has served the campus community well and raised awareness of important issues of race and racism in American society.

He concluded his report noting his pride in New Paltz students, employees and alumni and partners at Historic Huguenot Street who have engaged in this dialogue that has taught the community so much along the way.

Mr. Basch asked that Mr. Eaton's letter on behalf of the President's Cabinet supporting renaming the Hasbrouck Complex buildings be entered into the minutes. See attached letter.

Mr. Basch offered his appreciation to Mr. Cozzolino for the thoughtful report from the Study Group on Alternate Building Names. Should the Council vote to remove the current names, Mr. Basch said these alternate names would give comfort to everyone residing and eating in the Hasbrouck Complex.

#### Student Association President's Report:

Ms. Seque welcomed meeting attendees and thanked everyone who contributed to this multi-year process, including the Diversity and Inclusion Council for bringing this issue to light and producing a report for the College Council to review and consider. Ms. Seque thanked President Christian for his passion and great leadership and the administration for helping and guiding her throughout this process. She also recognized faculty, library staff, UUP, students, the Student Association Executive Board, and the SUNY Student Assembly, for their support. She shared the assembly's letter of support with the Council. See attached letter.

Ms. Seque offered her report to the Council. See attached report.

#### Resolution Regarding Hasbrouck Complex Building Names:

Ms. Seque re-introduced and read the resolution to the Council (this resolution was first introduced on November 1 and postponed by the Council at that time) that recommended the removal of the names of Huguenot patentees from the Hasbrouck Complex buildings. See attached resolution.

Mr. DiCarlo offered comments opposing the resolution. See attached statement.

Mr. Catalinotto asked that the record include the October 11, 2018, letter from Michael Deyo and the December 15, 2018, letter from Jennifer LeFevre. He said that both of these Huguenot descendants oppose the resolution. Mr. Catalinotto said that he will vote to oppose the resolution, as it is an erasure of history. He said that the genesis of the history of the College and town lies with the Huguenot patentees. Mr. Catalinotto said that their names were not placed on the Hasbrouck Complex buildings to celebrate the fact that they were slaveholders. He said their names were placed on those buildings as part of

history to celebrate the fact that they had the ability and energy to come to America, create the Town of New Paltz, and lay the groundwork for SUNY New Paltz.

Dr. Balant offered comments in support of the resolution. See attached statement.

In response to Mr. Catalinotto's comments, Ms. Seque said that the names on the Hasbrouck Complex buildings have been an issue since 1997. She added that if students and other individuals are not okay with certain names being put behind a building, then it's time for the Council to act upon it.

Mr. Cozzolino called for a vote on Ms. Seque's resolution regarding the Hasbrouck Complex building names.

Mr. Basch agreed to call for a vote following a few comments. He said that he has been involved with the College for more than 30 years. He is a product of public education and for that, he will be forever grateful.

Mr. Basch said that the resolution recognizes the Huguenot patentees in an appropriate way. He said that it is crafted to give respect to the settlers while also giving respect to students who live and eat currently in these buildings. Students feel genuinely disrespected by having the current names in place now. Mr. Basch believes that we can eliminate this problem through the resolution and honor the College's forbearers simultaneously. He said that the resolution reflects this goal. Mr. Basch said that he supports the resolution and the hard work of everybody who studied it thoroughly.

Mr. Basch administered a roll call vote on Ms. Seque's resolution that recommends the removal of the names of Huguenot patentees from the Hasbrouck Complex buildings. Those who voted in favor of the resolution: Ms. Seque, Mr. Law, Mr. Cozzolino, and Mr. Basch. Those opposed: Mr. Catalinotto, Mr. DiCarlo, and Dr. Venables.

Mr. Basch confirmed the resolution's passage.

Mr. Cozzolino introduced a resolution to consider replacement names and shared copies with the Council. The Council considered whether to discuss and vote on the resolution regarding the alternate building names and decided to postpone that vote until the next meeting. Mr. Law moved to postpone consideration, Mr. DiCarlo seconded the motion, and the Council approved the postponement by voice vote.

#### Budget Update:

See attached PowerPoint slides. Vice President Halstead said that at the beginning of the year the College was showing a projected deficit of more than \$5 million. Despite that forecast, the vice president said that revenues in this year's budget are looking good, and that she anticipates that the College will meet or exceed its revenue targets.

Vice President Halstead said that the expenditure line is difficult to project at this time of the year, but forecasts are looking favorable. For example, on the personal service (personnel costs) front, she said that the College is 61% through the year and at only 59% of personnel expenditures. This will result in savings, both in one-time and recurring personnel costs. The vice president noted that it's too early to tell where the campus will end up on the temporary service expenditure line, as adjunct faculty are still being entered into the payroll system. She said that utilities expenditures are looking good but cautioned that current data only reflects expenditures through December.

She concluded by noting that the College put together a deficit reduction plan and has met the target for the first year of that plan by reducing one-time and ongoing expenditures by \$1.75 million by holding vacant lines open and cutting costs such as supplies and service contracts. This savings will reduce the College's reliance on cash reserves to help close the deficit.

Wrap-Up:

Mr. DiCarlo asked to introduce new business to the Council. He informed the Council of his intent to resign from the body, effective February 22, 2019. See attached resignation speech. Mr. Basch thanked Mr. DiCarlo for his service to the Council. President Christian thanked him as well, following the meeting.

Mr. Basch adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard Winters  
Director of Community and Government Relations



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.

|                          | <b>Strongly Favor or Favor</b> | <b>Neutral</b> | <b>Strongly Oppose or Oppose</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|--------------|
| 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.

President Donald P. Christian

May 11, 2018

To President Donald P. Christian,

We the SUNY New Paltz Student Association reflect the sentiments of the Hasbrouck Complex Name Change Survey sent out to the student body on March 28th, 2018. As the primary governing body of SUNY New Paltz students, we recommend that the names of the Hasbrouck Complex; Bevier Hall, Deyo Hall, DuBois Hall, Crispell Hall, Lefevre Hall and the Hasbrouck Dining Hall be removed. SUNY New Paltz prides itself on the principles of being a diverse and inclusive campus. However, the names of the Hasbrouck Complex buildings are inconsistent with this excerpt from the university's mission statement:

“...We are a faculty and campus community dedicated to the construction of a vibrant intellectual/creative public forum which reflects and celebrates the diversity of our society and encourages and supports active participation in scholarly and artistic activity...”<sup>1</sup>

While the names of the buildings were set forth to honor the founding families of New Paltz, in today's social climate, the legacy attached to these families impedes the goal of diversity and inclusion on this campus. These buildings are named after historic slave owning families which continues to have a negative impact on our students' comfort level of being a community member of New Paltz. The Student Association will not tolerate the perpetuation of the legacy of slavery that these buildings represent. Therefore, we as the SUNY New Paltz Student Association urge the Diversity and Inclusion Council to recommend and President Donald P. Christian to remove the names of the Hasbrouck Complex buildings.

Sincerely,

The Student Association

---

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.newpaltz.edu/about/mission.html>

Date: October 5, 2018  
To: Donald P. Christian, President  
cc: Lorin Arnold, Provost  
From: Anne C. Balant  
Presiding Office of the College Faculty



Re: Notice of Senate Action

Please be advised that on October 3, 2018, a resolution from the Executive Committee supporting the recommendations of the Diversity and Inclusion regarding the renaming of the buildings in the Hasbrouck Complex was adopted by the SUNY New Paltz Faculty Senate. The vote tally was 51 in favor, 1 abstention, and 0 opposed. The text of this resolution is below.

*Whereas the Diversity & Inclusion Council undertook a year-long process to deliberate upon removing and replacing the names on the buildings in the Hasbrouck complex, and*

*Whereas this issue has been brought forward over decades by students, staff and faculty, and*

*Whereas President Donald Christian has endorsed the recommendations of the Diversity and Inclusion Council, and*

*Whereas, "After extensive research, data review, and conversations with students, faculty, staff, community members, representatives of Historic Huguenot Street, descendants of Huguenot families, and alumni, the SUNY New Paltz Diversity and Inclusion Council has determined that the Hasbrouck Complex buildings should be renamed," and*

*Whereas, "There was also consensus that SUNY New Paltz's mission as an educational institution places upon us a duty to give expression to previously marginalized histories, to approach history through a lens of critical inquiry, and to understand our past in all its rich diversity without simply replacing one history with another," and*

*Whereas the Diversity and Inclusion Council concluded that, "the current names have a deep impact on the lives of students who reside, eat, and create community in the Hasbrouck Complex buildings," and*

*Whereas the success of New Paltz students is of paramount importance to New Paltz faculty,*

*Be it resolved that the SUNY New Paltz Faculty Senate, on behalf of the College Faculty of SUNY New Paltz, support the recommendation of the Diversity & Inclusion Council regarding the removal and replacement of the building names in the Hasbrouck Complex.*



# Campus Auxiliary Services, Inc.

SUNY New Paltz 1 Hawk Drive - HDH New Paltz, NY 12561

February 13, 2019

Dear Members of the College Council:

The Board of Trustees of the Campus Auxiliary Services Corporation met today and passed a resolution by unanimous vote to encourage the College Council to change the names of the buildings in the Hasbrouck Complex. Given that our central office and main dining services are provided within these buildings, we feel a special obligation to voice our support for the name change. Students, faculty, the college president and the rest of the campus community have called for the name change and we add our voices to this chorus. We encourage the Council to adopt building names that are sensitive to our diverse community.

## **CAS Board Members:**

Samuel Halligan, Junior, RHSA President  
Juan Pablo Molina, Sophomore, RHSA Treasurer  
David Eaton, VP Enrollment Management  
Stephanie Blaisdell, VP Student Affairs  
Fred Destefano, CSEA Representative  
Niza Cardona, Director Student Accounts  
Corrina Caracci, Director Residence Life  
Brian Obach, Professor Department of Sociology





## **United University Professions New Paltz Chapter**

### **Resolution from the UUP-New Paltz Chapter on the renaming of the Hasbrouck Complex buildings**

WHEREAS United University Profession (UUP) represents over 900 bargaining unit members on the SUNY New Paltz campus, and

WHEREAS our work focuses on providing historically honest, conceptually and critically clear education to our students, in an atmosphere of collective care and concern that enhances the sense of well-being and inclusion for everyone on our campus, and

WHEREAS “after extensive research, data review, and conversations with students, faculty, staff, community members, representatives of Historic Huguenot Street, descendants of Huguenot families, and alumni,” the SUNY New Paltz Diversity and Inclusion Council has determined that the Hasbrouck Complex buildings should be renamed, and

WHEREAS the New Paltz Faculty Senate voted overwhelmingly to support this recommendation of the Diversity and Inclusion Council, and

WHEREAS the President of the New Paltz Student Association has called for the College Council to remove the Huguenot patentee names from the Hasbrouck Residential Complex buildings, and to find other ways to recognize the contributions of the Huguenot patentees and their descendants as well as the indigenous Munsee and the Africans who also lived here, and

WHEREAS we believe the best interests of the College community, our members, and our students are best served by recognizing the difficult historical realities that were foundational to the establishment of New Paltz, and addressing the continuing toll generated by the burden of slavery and racism in our own time, and

WHEREAS we stand in solidarity with our students and our Faculty Senate,

Be it RESOLVED that the UUP-New Paltz Chapter endorses the recommendation to rename the Hasbrouck Complex buildings on our campus contained in the Report of the Diversity and Inclusion Council to the members of the College Council, and be it further

RESOLVED that the Chapter President share this resolution with the College Council, the President of the College, the Presiding Officer of the Faculty Senate, the President of the New Paltz Student Association, and the SUNY New Paltz Diversity and Inclusion Council in advance of the next meeting of the College Council on February 21, 2019.



15 February 2019

Dear College Council of the State University of New York at New Paltz:

We, the Department of History, write to you concerning the recent discussion regarding the renaming of several campus buildings. As historians we are particularly invested in this debate; our discipline and training demands that we study, understand, and educate others about the past. Simultaneously we understand that the past is not static, but dynamic—it is always in conversation with the present. Three of our department colleagues participated in a panel in the Spring 2018 term that discussed the power of historical memory as manifested, for instance, by the creation of monuments and how this changes over time. Such changes do not "erase history," as is sometimes claimed, but rather reflect evolving social and cultural sensibilities; in the case under consideration here, our increasing awareness of the painful legacies generated by the practice of race-based slavery in the United States and our desire to address these legacies.

History is not the same as public memory. Public Historians recognize that their work on memory is collaborative, involving working with community partners, and political in that it is an exercise in power and control over publicly-presented historical identity. The SUNY New Paltz community has done the collaborative work to discover what memories and identities the community here wishes to memorialize. The Diversity and Inclusion Council has recommended that we change the names of the Hasbrouck complex, and these recommendations have been supported by the student body, Faculty Senate, and President Christian, yet only the College Council retains the power to affirm this collective decision.

Changing the name of buildings does not "erase the past," but rather continues the practice of memorializing the past in conversation with the present. Through discussions over the past year, students, faculty, staff, and administration have learned a deeper history of our campus. We have engaged in extensive research, knowledge sharing, and thoughtful community reflection, and have determined that a name change has the potential to reflect more accurately the mores, values, and wisdom of the present. Clearly the historic figures after whom our buildings were named were whole people far greater than their participation in a slave system. However, they also cannot be disentangled from that violent reality. Not changing the names of the buildings would therefore "erase" the work of history currently being pursued on this campus. At this particular moment in time, the vast majority of our community does not wish to memorialize slavery.

As historians, we know changing the names of campus buildings would be true to the spirit of our discipline, as our professional organization has made clear: <https://www.historians.org/news-and-advocacy/statements-and-resolutions-of-support-and-protest/aha-statement-on-confederate-monuments>. As educators, most important to us is the impact that this issue has on our students. As our campus statement on diversity and inclusion makes clear, we are committed to "integrat[ing] and sustain[ing] inclusiveness and community building into the life of the institution." Requiring students—some of whom are the descendants of slaves—to live, sleep, and eat in buildings that commemorate slave owners is in stark contrast with these objectives.

We thank you for considering our position and our recommendations as you weigh your final decision on this matter.


Sincerely,

The SUNY New Paltz Department of History



New Paltz  
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Department of Communication

To: Mr. Eli Basch, Chair, College Council  
From: Dr. Brian Obach, Interim Chair,   
Communication Department, SUNY New Paltz  
Re: Hausbrouck Complex Building Names

February 12, 2019

On behalf of the Department of Communication at SUNY New Paltz, I am writing to respectfully request that the College Council opt to change the names of the buildings in the Hasbrouck complex. The entire campus community has carefully considered this issue. As you are likely aware, students, faculty, and the college administration have all concluded that it is in the best interest of the college to make this change. We share this perspective and feel very strongly that the buildings on campus should reflect and respect the diversity of our community.

Thank you for your consideration.



New Paltz

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

Sojourner Truth Library

February 4, 2019

Dear SUNY New Paltz College Council,

The faculty and staff of the Sojourner Truth Library respectfully write to share our thoughts and concerns regarding building renaming on campus. We believe that this decision will have a lasting impact on the future of the College. We strongly urge the College Council to vote in favor of the renaming, and bring this debate to a successful, healing close.

Following the extensive investigation and debate regarding the buildings that were named for slaveholders, we believe and affirm that:

1. Having buildings named for slaveholders is fundamentally at odds with the mission of the College, and moral and ethical standards in our community.
2. Living and working in buildings named for slaveholders takes a toll on students, staff, and faculty, as these names continue to honor people who succeeded in this world by forcing others to work and live in captivity.
3. A vote to rename the buildings would identify SUNY New Paltz as a moral, cultural, and educational leader on a national level. Any vote by the College Council against renaming would be a public embarrassment to our campus--historically, morally, culturally and pedagogically.
4. Any vote by the College Council against renaming would contribute to an unsafe environment on campus for people of color.
5. A vote by the College Council in favor of renaming would generate significant positive media attention and aid in our mission of building a campus that truly welcomes diversity. Conversely, retaining the names of slaveholders on buildings, and the adverse publicity that would certainly result, would--without doubt--damage student, faculty and staff recruitment and retention. Our reputation as a welcoming and safe campus for a racially diverse population would be tarnished; and rightly so.
6. We must commit--as a Library and as a campus--to making more visible and accessible the complex history of this region. Including both the harsh reality of slave-holding in the Hudson Valley *and* the contributions by descendents of the Huguenot founders.

As educators we recognize that the racial diversity that we see on campus every day makes this college a stronger, better place. Any actions taken to undermine this would seriously harm the students, staff, teaching and learning that happen here every day.

We stand with students and faculty who have already testified to the importance and value of renaming. We stand with everyone on campus who wants to feel safe from institutionalized racism at SUNY New Paltz. We believe that these buildings should be renamed. And, we look to the College Council to support this stance and this community with an affirmative vote in February.

Signed,

Kim Allesi, Library Clerk II  
Kate Bellody, Research & Education Librarian  
W. Mark Colvson, Dean  
Matthew Cummings, Cataloging Clerk  
Anne Deutsch, Instruction Program Coordinator  
Morgan Gwenwald, Special Collections Librarian  
William Hennessy, Library Clerk II  
Elijah Jonas, Visiting Assistant Librarian  
Yvonne Kester, Visiting Librarian – Systems and Tech Support  
Joan Laudicina, Library Clerk II  
Colleen Lougen, Electronic Resources Librarian  
Charlene Martoni-McElrath, Evening and Weekend Supervisor  
Valerie Mittenberg, Collection Development Librarian  
Gary Oliver, Tech Team Staff  
Jennifer Rutner, Visiting Assistant Librarian  
Diane Sharp, Secretary  
Madeline Veitch, Research, Metadata & Zine Librarian  
Carol Ward, Assistant to the Dean

Cc: Eli Basch, Chairperson, SUNY New Paltz College Council  
Donald P. Christian, President, SUNY New Paltz  
Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost, SUNY New Paltz  
Rebecca Grigas, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Governance Student Association



Date: December 11, 2018  
To: SUNY New Paltz College Council  
From: The Faculty of the Department of Theatre Arts  
Subj: **Hasbrouck Building Complex**

On behalf of the Community of the Department of Theatre Arts, the faculty support the resolution of the Faculty Senate regarding the naming of the Hasbrouck Complex. We, the undersigned, urge the College Council to rename the buildings of the complex to aid in the creation of community, easing of racial and ethnic tensions, and the recontextualization of exclusionary histories found on this campus.

There are numerous reasons the undersigned in the department feel strongly about this issue. However, the most prevalent reason comes from the words taken directly from the Senate Resolution:

*Whereas the Diversity & Inclusion Council undertook a year-long process to deliberate upon removing and replacing the names on the buildings in the Hasbrouck complex, and*

*Whereas this issue has been brought forward over decades by students, staff and faculty, and*

*Whereas President Donald Christian has endorsed the recommendations of the Diversity and Inclusion Council, and*

*Whereas, "After extensive research, data review, and conversations with students, faculty, staff, community members, representatives of Historic Huguenot Street, descendants of Huguenot families, and alumni, the SUNY New Paltz Diversity and Inclusion Council has determined that the Hasbrouck Complex buildings should be renamed," and*

*Whereas, "There was also consensus that SUNY New Paltz's mission as an educational institution places upon us a duty to give expression to previously marginalized histories, to approach history through a lens of critical inquiry, and to understand our past in all its rich diversity without simply replacing one history with another," and*

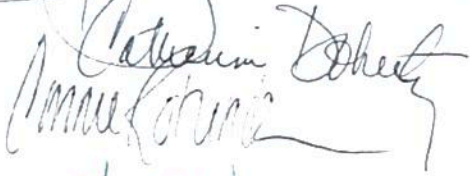
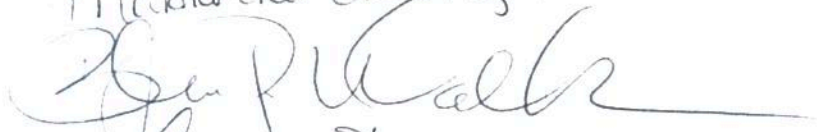
*Whereas the Diversity and Inclusion Council concluded that, "the current names have a deep impact on the lives of students who reside, eat, and create community in the Hasbrouck Complex buildings," and*

Whereas the success of New Paltz students is of paramount importance to New Paltz faculty,  
Be it resolved that the SUNY New Paltz Faculty Senate, on behalf of the College Faculty of SUNY  
New Paltz, support the recommendation of the Diversity & Inclusion Council regarding the  
removal and replacement of the building names in the Hasbrouck Complex.

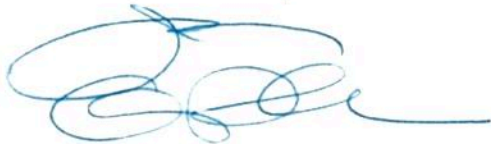
Sincerely,



Mark Miller (Chair, Faculty Senate)



김신희



Chris Noble

**From:** KT Tobin <[KTobin@villageofnewpaltz.org](mailto:KTobin@villageofnewpaltz.org)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, February 19, 2019 4:34 PM

**To:** diversityandinclusion

**Cc:** Mayor Tim Rogers; Donald P. Christian; Kathleen (Kt) Tobin

**Subject:** Mayor Rogers and Deputy Mayor Tobin's statement supporting the Hasbrouck building complex name change

Dear SUNY New Paltz College Council,

We strongly support the SUNY New Paltz Diversity and Inclusion Council recommendation that the Hasbrouck Complex buildings should be renamed. Following the D & I's thorough research and convening of a broad community conversation on the topic, it is clear that this is the right thing to do.

We stand with the SUNY New Paltz D & I Council, President Christian, the many campus administrators, staff, and faculty across campus, including the History Department, the Faculty Senate, the United University Professions union, the Campus Auxiliary Services (CAS) board, and especially the New Paltz Student Association and the many, many students who for the past several years have shared their perspectives and informed us about the real impacts of these names on their daily lives. We stand with who all have voiced their strong support for removing the Huguenot patentee names from these residential buildings.

We reject the contention that to change these names would be "erasing history," and we, as white people, wholeheartedly agree with President Christian's analysis that "Such thinking shifts the focus of discrimination away from those who have suffered under it, and creates a narrative used to defend a status quo that is harmful. We cannot meet our mission if we view seeking truth and enriching our understanding of each other as a loss."

We believe this moment in time provides an excellent opportunity to reveal and be more truthful about our history. The recommendations for a "contemplative space" aligned with curriculum and new interior signage in these dorms with more depth and information provided will actually do a much better job of educating students and our community about our past. Renaming the dorms is right educationally and will definitely be more reflective of our contemporary community values.



Thank you for considering our statement as you deliberate over this important decision.

KT Tobin and Tim Rogers

Deputy Mayor and Mayor of the Village of New Paltz

(an alum and the son of alumni)

Excerpt of letter from Huguenot descendant read by President Donald Christian at the February 21, 2019, College Council meeting.

“... I am writing in support of the name change for the SUNY New Paltz buildings in the Hasbrouck complex named after the Huguenots who settled the area. As a direct descendant of these settlers ... , I feel the time is long overdue for the recognition of others who participated in the growth of the region. Growing up, my grandmother would tell me stories of our “great” ancestors and how they overcame religious persecution to build new lives in America. While these things are true, it is only half the story. Through the increased transparency of modern historical research, it is easier to see the whole picture where enslaved Africans and Native Americans were marginalized for our success. I have seen strides made on Huguenot Street to include more archeological digs to further the knowledge of others who lived on the site. It is my hope that one day our detailed archives will help others find their ancestral history in the way that mine has been documented. Let the renaming of these buildings be one small step in the restorative justice this nation is seeking. I wish you and the university the best of luck in resolving this sensitive issue.”



From: L. David Eaton on behalf of the President's Cabinet  
To: The SUNY New Paltz College Council  
Date: 2/21/2019  
Subject: Support for Renaming the Hasbrouck Complex Buildings

College Council members, faculty and staff colleagues, students, and guests, I am David Eaton, Vice President for Enrollment Management and the longest serving member of the presidents' cabinet. On behalf of my cabinet colleagues, I will take a few minutes to articulate our opinion and recommendation concerning a matter before this Council today. My colleagues are:

Lorin Basden Arnold, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Stephanie Blaisdell, Vice President for Student Affairs  
Michele Halstead, Vice President for Administration and Finance  
Erica Marks, Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations  
Tanhena Pacheco Dunn, Associate VP for HR, Diversity, and Inclusion  
Shelly Wright, Chief of Staff and VP for Communication and Marketing

My colleagues and I have more than 120 years of combined executive leadership experience within and outside of higher education. Making tough decisions is not new to us individually or as members of a policy making group. Collectively, we are responsible for all aspects of this enterprise called SUNY New Paltz – an academy that functions as a small city, comprised of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends.

It is our customary practice as a team to have the college president make public policy statements, recommendations for action, and to articulate institutional vision and values. We advise the president on these matters and due to our diversity of world views and professional experiences, we are seldom, if ever, of one voice in our opinions. The matter before the College Council today, removing and replacing the building names in the Hasbrouck residential complex, is an exception.

From the outset, in the summer of 2017, when the cabinet discussed and debated this matter, we were unanimous in our opinion that it should be forwarded to the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force for exploration, consideration, and a recommendation. Following receipt of the recommendation of the Task Force to remove and replace the names, the cabinet team discussed and debated the matter and unanimously endorsed the recommendation and advised the president accordingly.

It is clear, at this point, that such unanimity exists across this community's primary stakeholder groups; faculty, staff, and students, as is evidenced by the multiple resolutions from representative stakeholder groups urging affirmative action on the resolution before the College Council today.

Like many decisions we are required to make every day, this is not an easy decision because there are passionate views on multiple sides of the issue. When we, as a cabinet, face difficult decisions, we typically reboot by eliminating all but one variable.....What is in the best interest of the institution? We think that the unanimity of opinion across this community speaks for itself. We heartily recommend that the Council support the resolution before you today.....in the best interest of the institution and our students, now and into the future.



The State University of New York  
Student Assembly

Michael A. Braun, President  
State University Plaza, N501  
353 Broadway, Albany, NY 12246  
P: (518) 320-1288 | F: (518) 320-1557  
[www.sunysa.org](http://www.sunysa.org)

College Council  
State University of New York at New Paltz  
1 Hawk Dr  
New Paltz, New York 12561

February 18, 2019

Dear Interim Chairperson Basch,

I am writing this letter to support President N'della Seque and the New Paltz Student Association in their efforts to change the names of the Hasbrouck Complex buildings.

The importance of shared governance is exemplified during times of change. The collaborative deliberations that occur through shared governance result in positive change reflective of the views and values of the institution. On the issue of changing the names of the Hasbrouck Complex buildings, I commend the work that the college council, faculty, staff and administration of SUNY New Paltz have done collectively to seek inclusive solutions. Furthermore, I commend President Donald P. Christian's work in providing a platform where student voices are heard and valued.

The campus-wide engagement process instrumented by the New Paltz community signifies the impact that the names of the Hasbrouck Complex buildings have on students and their experience at SUNY New Paltz. It is critical to both current and prospective students at SUNY New Paltz that this college council demonstrates their value of the student voice and support a decision that addresses their concerns.

Thank you for being receptive to all voices on this important matter, and for your promotion of shared governance at SUNY New Paltz.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Braun  
President, SUNY Student Assembly  
Trustee, SUNY Board of Trustees

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

February 21, 2019

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.

## **Resolution to Remove the Names of Huguenot patentees from the Hasbrouck Residential Complex**

*Submitted on behalf of N'della Seque, Student Association President and College Council Member*

**I recommend that the SUNY New Paltz College Council adopt the following resolution:**

Whereas, the buildings in the Hasbrouck Residential Complex were named for the original Huguenot patentees (Bevier, Crispell, Deyo, DuBois, Hasbrouck and Lefevre), who were the first European settlers in New Paltz and like other Europeans who settled in New York, they owned enslaved Africans, and

Whereas, the Huguenot patentees and their descendants made significant contributions to education and civic life in New Paltz, including supporting the institutions that became SUNY New Paltz, and

Whereas, the Hasbrouck Residential Complex names have become contentious on campus, and

Whereas, President Donald P. Christian initiated a process in August 2017 to consider and study the names of the Hasbrouck Residential Complex, and this charge coincided with the national discourse and conflict about statues and building names on other college and university campuses, and

Whereas, President Christian charged the Diversity & Inclusion Council to conduct a comprehensive and inclusive conversation and study during the 2017-18 academic year that resulted in the Hasbrouck Building Complex Renaming Dialogue Report and Recommendation), and

Whereas, the Diversity & Inclusion Council held multiple forums, soliciting broad input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, Huguenot descendants and Historic Huguenot Street leadership, educated the community about the campus history, and studied how other colleges and universities have dealt with the legacy of slavery on their campuses, and

Whereas, the Diversity and Inclusion Council recommended that the names be removed, and

Whereas, the College Council has the authority to name buildings and grounds, subject to the general management, supervision, control and approval of the State University Board of Trustees (Ed.L. §356), now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the College Council accept the recommendation from the Diversity and Inclusion Council and President Donald P. Christian to remove the Huguenot patentee names from the Hasbrouck Residential Complex buildings (including Bevier, Crispell, Deyo, DuBois, Hasbrouck, and Lefevre), and be it further

Resolved, that the College Council replace those names, and be it further

Resolved, that the College Council recommends that the College administration find other ways to recognize the contributions of the Huguenot patentees and their descendants as well as the indigenous Munsee and the Africans who also lived here.

Date: October 19, 2018

**ROBERT J. DiCARLO**  
**SENATOR EMERITUS**

**DiCARLO CONSULTING**

---

As you all know, I have opposed this measure from the beginning. I continue to oppose it for logical and historical reasons I will not repeat now, though I continue to consider them good ones. Some of you, even some of you who may have agreed with those reasons, may have been wondering whether the renaming of some buildings could possibly matter enough to oppose the president, many of the faculty, some of the students, I imagine the governor and a majority of the legislature, and, yes, even some of the library staff, who say they believe that adopting this measure is of the highest importance, and a critical test of our good will and moral soundness.

In a sense, those who doubt that the renaming of a few buildings is worth a fight are right. After all, if a sizable number of people want something a lot, and the rest don't care much, why not just give those who have strong feelings on the matter what they want, regardless of why they feel that way? But what we are voting on today is not simply the removal of names by which some of us, rightly or wrongly, may feel offended. When we vote on this measure, we are also voting on the doctrines that are being used to support it--doctrines of intergenerational racial bloodguilt that, if unchecked, threaten to cripple the students in whom they are inculcated, and could ultimately destroy our nation.

Does that sound a little extreme? If so, I invite my countrymen who have sponsored or supported this measure to stand back, take a fresh look at what they have been saying, and ask themselves where the principles they have been espousing lead, and have led always and everywhere.

Almost no one today would deny the injustice of slavery, and of the particularly brutal enslavement of black Africans in America. Nor would many fail to condemn the political and cultural system of racial discrimination against black Americans that survived for far too long after slavery was abolished. Nor would many deny that slavery, like many another past injustice, is still taking a toll.

Contemplating the magnitude of such crimes makes many understandably want to punish, or at least to seek restitution from, the perpetrators. While the hard fact is that those responsible are all dead, wishful thinking, which is always the mother of delusions, makes us want to find living scapegoats to take the place of those who have escaped our vengeance by dying. So, we invent theories of national or racial guilt.

For what is the doctrine of "white privilege" but an attempt to make an arbitrary group responsible for the crimes of people who may or may not have been their ancestors? Who is "white" anyway? Half of my ancestors were Catholics from southern Italy, and therefore were members of both a race and a religion that were despised by many of the people they found in America when they arrived. My Italian grandfather, far from being the descendant of a rich slaveholder, sold hot dogs under the boardwalk at Coney Island. No doubt, back in Italy, he had ancestors who were murdered, enslaved, oppressed, or dispossessed. Likewise, my mother's family arrived during the last century and her mother, like many, earned a modest living caring for the children of the rich.

Likewise, not every person with an ancestor in Africa is descended from a slave. Nor does every American who is identified or identifies himself as black start life at a disadvantage to everyone identified as white. While slavery was a terrible crime, it is not the only crime that can wound the human personality.

Even if there were some reasoned basis to identify a group of "whites" today some of whose ancestors did in fact own slaves, and it were further possible to identify living persons who have been harmed by that injustice, we cannot atone for the crimes of the dead by perpetrating new ones on the living. Moreover, the doctrines of victimhood and bloodguilt advanced as reasons for such new injustices only lead to disaster for both the individual and the society.



**ROBERT J. DiCARLO**  
**SENATOR EMERITUS**

**DiCARLO CONSULTING**

---

These doctrines are pernicious for the individual, because only our American belief, which is a precious legacy of our western Judeo-Christian roots, in the power of the individual to overcome the circumstances of his birth, can in fact empower him to do so. On the other hand, if we are successful in convincing people who consider themselves not white that their success depends upon undoing the effects of injustices done to people like them in past generations by seeking advantages over their white contemporaries, we doom them to failure in the present.

After all, what is so-called "affirmative action" but a euphemism for just such race-based preferences? Such practices are obviously unjust to those who are not considered members of the aggrieved, and therefore preferred, groups, which lawyers aptly call "protected classes." A greater harm done to the non protected and non preferred is that they too can develop the same victim mentality as the protected classes, and they too can be doomed by it to fatalism, futility, and failure.

Theories of racial guilt, victimhood, vengeance, reparations, and bloodguilt are, if anything, more destructive at the level of the society than at the level of the individual. At best, these pernicious doctrines produce conflict, and the destruction of a sense of common ideals and the common good. At worst, they produce violence, civil war, and mass murder. For proof, one need only look at the recent and not so recent history of Northern Ireland, Rwanda, the Middle East, and Bosnia.

What is special about America, what has made it possible for people of many nations, races, and religions to live and prosper together, is the American idea that, in a land of liberty, each person, regardless of who his ancestors were, has the power to make something of himself. America's sins have not been consequences of those ideals, but failures to live up to them. The doctrines of racial victimhood and bloodguilt that we are being asked to endorse implicitly today strike at the very heart of that American idea. I hate those doctrines because I love America, and all its people, regardless of their origins or ancestry.

Let us then recommit ourselves to the American idea, so that, rather than embarking on a futile path of tribalism, injustice, and racial score settling, we can continue to pursue together the ideal of a nation with liberty and justice for all--a nation in which, as Dr. King, among many other good people, have dreamed, a man is not judged by the color of his skin. That is the American idea; that is the American nation; that is what so many of our forebears, whether or not we carry their biological DNA, have fought and died for. I therefore urge you to defeat this measure.

# Letter to the Editor Michael Deyo

By Michael Deyo  
San Diego, CA

As we all know, regarding the Huguenot family names on the Hasbrouck complex, President Donald P. Christian recently announced the non-unanimous recommendations of the Diversity & Inclusion Council that, "buildings that honor families who owned slaves should be renamed," so be it. But, as one of the tens of thousands of descendants of those families, I'd like to highlight two major points ignored by the Council.

There is a distinct difference between naming a building for a generic family which has existed for centuries and is made up of thousands of individuals born into the family, and naming a building for a specific person (such as Robert E. Lee) or a group of unrelated individuals with a com-

mon purpose (such as Confederate Veterans).

It would be difficult to impossible to find many European families with ancestors who arrived in America prior to the 19th. Century who did not have a slave holder somewhere in their family tree.

Nevertheless, if the Huguenot family names are to be stripped from campus buildings because two centuries and more ago someone in the family owned a slave, then surely fairness and consistency requires that names such as Scudder, Bliss, Haggerty, Coykendall, Wooster, etc. be likewise investigated to see whether any of those families also had a slaveholder in their ranks. More importantly, should

not such investigations be extended to the families of SUNY New Paltz's current administrators and faculty members? After all, would it not be hypocritical in the extreme to expunge the names of slave-holding families from SUNY New Paltz buildings, while descendants of slave owners hold sway in the classroom and in the admin building?

Sincerely,

*Michael Deyo*

---

Thursday, October 11, 2018

*orade.newpaltz.edu*

15 December 2018

Mr. Eli Basch  
Interim Chairperson, College Council  
SUNY New Paltz  
1 Hawk Drive  
New Paltz, NY 12561

Dear Mr. Basch:

My name is Jennifer LeFevre and I am a ninth-generation descendant of Simon LeFevre, an original patentee of New Paltz. I grew up on Mohonk Avenue just on the edge of the SUNY New Paltz campus and am myself a graduate of the SUNY system, having graduated from SUNY Geneseo in 1994.

I am deeply troubled by the initiative to rename the six student halls on campus that are named after founding families of New Paltz. Slavery is a fact of our nation's history, including New Paltz. An element of history that should be neither ignored nor celebrated. It is my understanding that Historic Huguenot Street (HHS and legally known as the Huguenot Historical Society) now includes details of all former inhabitants of Huguenot Street as a part of their historic tours, which includes both Native Americans and slaves. And, certainly, if information about the founding families are included within the Halls themselves for which they are named (it has been several decades since I have been in any of the Halls), such details could and should be included to provide a clear picture of those families. However, to bow to pressure to reject the town's heritage simply because some elements of that history are distasteful to some is a disservice to history. NO historical figure is without distasteful elements. Should our nation's capital, Washington, D.C., have its name changed because George Washington was a slave owner? The concept is ridiculous. Should the nation's first and premiere library – the Library of Congress – give back all the many volumes donated to it by Thomas Jefferson (the very reason the Library of Congress was established in the first place) because Thomas Jefferson was a slave owner? Again, the concept is unthinkable. Honoring historical figures in the context for which they are being recognized – in this case as refugees fleeing religious persecution to establish a new community in a new world – is NOT honoring them because some of them were slave holders. It seems to me that those who want the Hall names changed are looking at the history of New Paltz ONLY through the lens of slavery and that, in itself, is an injustice to history.

This situation provides an opportunity for a teachable moment: to demonstrate that slavery is not the sole reason to accept or reject an element or figure of history by itself but an opportunity to look at the historical figure as a whole, including both admirable and regrettable attributes, and to understand history in its entire context. I hope SUNY New Paltz chooses to continue to honor the town's history and encourage those seeking this change to consider the bigger picture rather than to pigeon hole it.

Sincerely,



Jennifer LeFevre

Statement from Dr. Anne Balant, nonvoting faculty representative, read at the February 21, 2019, College Council meeting.

As an ex-officio member of this council, I represent the College Faculty, but I am also speaking as an individual with 25 years of service to this campus. A key focus of my service is the advancement of the college through accreditation. To maintain our accreditation by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, we must meet multiple stringent standards, including one that examines governance, leadership, and administration. This standard requires that the governing body of the institution, i.e. the SUNY Board of Trustees in conjunction with the College Council, “serves the public interest,” and “ensures that the institution clearly states and fulfills its mission and goals.”

Our mission states that we are “committed to providing high quality, affordable education to students from all social and economic backgrounds,” and further, that “We are a faculty and campus community dedicated to the construction of a vibrant intellectual/creative public forum which reflects and celebrates the diversity of our society.”

As you deliberate, I urge you to look beyond your individual viewpoints, listen to the voices of the campus community, and consider the evidence before you. We have the report of the year-long study by our Diversity and Inclusion Council. We now know of the detrimental impact of the Hasbrouck Complex Building names on our students, and we heard about some of their experiences at our last meeting. We have learned of the strong support for the resolution to replace the names from students, faculty, staff, administration, the campus auxiliary board, our UUP chapter, and local governmental leaders. We have seen other academic institutions, including highly prestigious colleges and universities, take the step you are now contemplating. We know that our campus is committed to preserving and presenting our history, including the positive contributions of those who founded and ensured the survival of what ultimately became SUNY New Paltz. (The survey data that were just presented suggest that the alternative building names that have been proposed enjoy strong support).

In voting for this change, you will indeed to serve the public interest and ensure the fulfillment of the college’s mission, in accord with our accreditation standards. The benefits of this change will be resoundingly positive and will extend for generations to come. Thank you.

# College Council Budget Update

February 21, 2019



**FY 18-19 Status of Core Instructional Budget**  
**February 21, 2019**

**REVENUE**

|   | <b><u>Budget</u></b> | <b><u>Estimated<br/>Revenue</u></b> | <b><u>Over/under</u></b> |
|---|----------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Fall Tuition & Fees                               | \$ 24,520,172        | \$ 24,594,808                       | \$ 74,637                |
| Spring Tuition & Fees                             | \$ 23,995,829        | \$ 24,195,966                       | \$ 200,138               |
| <b>Total Funds Generated by Campus Activities</b> | <b>\$ 48,516,000</b> | <b>\$ 48,790,775</b>                | <b>\$ 274,774</b>        |
| <br>  |                      |                                     |                          |
| State Support                                     | \$ 15,994,300        | \$ 10,559,800                       | \$ (5,434,500)           |
| <b>Total Revenue</b>                              | <b>\$ 64,510,300</b> | <b>\$ 59,350,575</b>                | <b>\$ (5,159,726)</b>    |

**EXPENDITURES**

|   | <b><u>Initial Budget</u></b> | <b><u>Year to Date<br/>Expenditure</u></b> | <b><u>Over/under</u></b> |
|---|------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Personal Service                        | \$ 58,644,914                | \$ 34,346,000                              | \$ 24,298,914            |
| Temporary Service                       | \$ 4,510,993                 | \$ 2,735,235                               | \$ 1,775,758             |
| Utilities                               | \$ 2,584,100                 | \$ 991,103                                 | \$ 1,592,997             |
| Supplies, Travel, Contracts & Equipment | \$ 3,791,314                 | \$ 2,341,493                               | \$ 1,449,821             |
| <b>Total Expenditures</b>               | <b>\$ 69,531,321</b>         | <b>\$ 40,413,831</b>                       | <b>\$ 29,117,490</b>     |

**Projected Deficit**

**\$ (5,021,021)**

**Robert DiCarlo Resignation Speech      Feb. 21, 2019**

Dear Fellow Council Members,

I might have the longest relationship with this college than anyone else here today – 44 years! I have now served as a member of this college council for 16 years. Probably the accomplishment I am most proud of was working with President Steve Poskanzer and our local Legislators in securing the millions of dollars necessary to build and renovate the beautiful Student Union Building we gather in today. The years spent working with President Poskanzer (a truly great college President) were tremendously rewarding.

Over the years it has been obvious that I have had my disagreements with the direction and politics of New Paltz

but I have always tried to be a restrained, yet dissenting voice of reason.

Now has come the time to take my leave of New Paltz and this council. Earlier I gave my reasons – I truly believe that the action taken today regarding stripping the names off buildings will lead to even more actions by this College that I wish not to be associated with, such as banning books which some might be offended by, and the continued silencing of speech and thought regarded as offensive by those political classes that now rule on college campuses.



I was appointed 16 years ago by then Governor George Pataki. I will be notifying our present Governor that my resignation from the College Council takes effect tomorrow, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, appropriately the birthday of the Father of our nation, George Washington, a great American despite the fact that he was a slaveholder. He upon his death freed his slaves, and I would like to believe because he saw the evil of it. I hope future generations of Americans would understand that you can't judge the past with the eyes of the present.

--Robert DiCarlo, February 21, 2019