

July 28, 2021

TO: Bill Kincaid, Esq., Interim Chancellor  
University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

FROM: Donald R. Bobbitt, President



SUBJECT: Approval Regarding Various Naming Opportunities, UAF

At its virtual meeting held on July 28, 2021, the Board of Trustees of the University of Arkansas approved the following resolutions:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, has undergone a process to review certain facility names, including the University's association with the legacy of the late Senator J. William Fulbright through the name of the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and the location of the J. William Fulbright statue outside of the Old Main building; and

WHEREAS, this process led to recommendations from former Chancellor Joseph E. Steinmetz to maintain the name of the Fulbright College and explore relocating and contextualizing the Fulbright statue; and

WHEREAS, the 93<sup>rd</sup> Arkansas General Assembly passed Act 1003, which prohibits the removal or relocation of monuments on public property; and

WHEREAS, the complex legacy of Senator Fulbright includes his contributions to internationalism and world peace, most notably through the establishment and success of the Fulbright International Exchange Program, along with his opposition to landmark Civil Rights and voting rights legislation; his signing of the Southern Manifesto, which opposed racial integration; and his vote to confirm the first African American to the U.S. Supreme Court, Justice Thurgood Marshall; and

WHEREAS, the Board voted on November 20, 1981, in conjunction with a \$1 million gift from the Stephens Charitable Trust, to name the Fulbright College in honor of the Senator to "endow the College in such a way as to make it a worldwide center for liberal learning in general and for the study of international relations in particular;" and

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees wishes to affirm the University's connection to Senator Fulbright's promotion of education, international exchange and world peace and to the broader legacy of the Fulbright International Exchange Program, while also acknowledging his complex record on Civil Rights and racial integration; and

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to affirm the commitment of the University to racial equality and promote an educational environment that seeks a full understanding of history, including the acknowledgement and discussion of topics and events that are difficult for some members of the campus community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board hereby affirms its previous action to name the College of Arts and Sciences at the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, the J. William Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board acknowledges the passage of Act 1003, which prohibits the removal or relocation of monuments on public property, and directs that the J. William Fulbright statue remain in its current location and that the University add contextualization to the statue that affirms the University's commitment to racial equality and acknowledges Senator Fulbright's complex legacy, including his record on international affairs, Civil Rights legislation, and racial integration.

#### RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, has undergone a process to review certain facility names, including the naming of the Charles Hillman Brough Commons dining facility considering the former governor's role in the 1919 Elaine Massacre; and

WHEREAS, the review process revealed little knowledge of the reasoning for the name or the connection between the University and the former governor other than him having held a professorship at the University according to the minutes of a November 14, 1958 Board of Trustees meeting at which the facility was named along with several others on campus; and

WHEREAS, the University administration has recommended removing the Brough name from the dining facility in light of the foregoing, including the name's lack of connection to the campus students, faculty and staff;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS THAT the Board hereby approves the removal of the name of the Charles Hillman Brough Commons dining facility.

You may proceed to implement these actions.