

Resolution

Amending the Name of Nott Hall

WHEREAS, diversity, inclusion, and respect are fundamental values of the University of Alabama System;

WHEREAS, on May 21, 1923, the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama System (“Board of Trustees”) approved naming the then-new Medical Building on the Tuscaloosa campus after Josiah Clark Nott, M.D., who helped start the Medical College of Alabama in Mobile;

WHEREAS, under Board Rule 411, the Board of Trustees has the exclusive discretion to amend, remove, or withdraw any naming at any time and for any reason;

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2020, the President Pro Tempore of the Board of Trustees appointed a working group of Trustees to conduct a comprehensive review of the names of buildings, structures, and spaces on all UA System campuses;

WHEREAS, the working group’s review is governed by the institutional best interests of the University of Alabama System, recognizing that although no person is infallible and widespread views commonly change over time, the Board of Trustees must take great care to demonstrate and honor the current values of the University of Alabama System;

WHEREAS, the working group’s initial inquiry is to determine whether an individual after whom a building, structure, or space is named made any substantial, lasting, and unique contributions to the University of Alabama System;

WHEREAS, if the working group concludes that an individual made substantial, lasting, and unique contributions, the working group will then weigh those contributions against any actions the individual took, or views the individual had, that are inconsistent with the current values of the University of Alabama System, taking into consideration the prevalent moral, religious, and political norms of the individual’s time;

WHEREAS, based upon consultation with several historical experts and its own investigation, the working group reviewed the historical record as it relates to Dr. Nott;

WHEREAS, the working group found that, although Dr. Nott helped found the Medical College of Alabama in Mobile, when he was asked to help reopen the Medical College of Alabama after its closure from 1861-1868, he declined to do so, and that Dr. Nott's contributions, if any, to the University of Alabama System were minimal at best;

WHEREAS, the working group also found that Dr. Nott's actions and views, including without limitation his misuse of science (1) to argue that non-white races were inherently inferior and destined to destruction and (2) to promote the institution of slavery, are substantially inconsistent with the current values of the University of Alabama System;

WHEREAS, based upon these findings, the working group unanimously recommended that the Board of Trustees amend the name of Nott Hall;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees that the name of Nott Hall on the Tuscaloosa campus is hereby amended to Honors Hall.