

Final Report
University of Alabama System
Working Group on
Named Structures and Spaces
Adopted on February 3, 2022

Summary: The UA System *Working Group on Named Structures and Spaces* (“Working Group”) was created in June 2020 to review names across the UA System and to report to the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama (“Board”) any that the Working Group recommended be changed. This document is the Working Group’s final report to the Board. Section 1 is an overview of the Working Group’s formation and composition. Section 2 describes its activities over the course of its sixteen months of service. Section 3 is a summary of the principal considerations used by members in their decision-making. Section 4 summarizes the Working Group’s recommendations and the reasons for those recommendations. Section 5 consists of some concluding observations.

1. Background, Charge, and Organization of the Working Group

- a. In 2019 and 2020, Americans viewed a series of video clips showing the wrongful deaths of black Americans at the hands of law enforcement officers. These videos supported long-standing charges from within black communities of ongoing unjust treatment by officials whose duty was to uphold the law. The video of George Floyd’s murder on May 25, 2020, seemed to confirm all those charges in one painfully graphic illustration, seared into our national consciousness. After watching the video, millions of Americans began listening to protestors’ claims with new seriousness and reexamining the history out of which those claims emerged.
- b. The State of Alabama was born in the expansion of racial slavery across the Deep South. African Americans in Alabama endured more than two generations of enslavement before the Civil War and then generations of discrimination and exploitation under segregation after the Civil War. As a prominent state institution for most of this period, the University of Alabama System regrettably reflected injustices that were part of the larger society. As the governing body of the UA System, the Board recognizes that effects of this legacy remain with us today.
- c. Because issues rooted in past injustices still affect life today, the Board, UA System administration, and others have undertaken a range of initiatives to address this legacy. One of these was a review of the names of buildings, spaces, and, in some cases, programs at each campus, the purpose for which this Working Group was created:

- In June 2020, President Pro Tempore Ronald Gray appointed the Working Group of Trustees “to review and study the names of buildings, structures, and spaces on all UA System campuses and to report to the Board on any recommended changes.” (*A copy of the June 15, 2020, charge is Attachment #1 in the Appendix.*)
- In a later press release relating to actions proposed by the Working Group, UA System Chancellor Finis St. John stated that they were “directly in keeping with our commitment to champion diversity, equity, and inclusion and to fulfill the core principles that guide our future.”

d. Composition of the Working Group:

- i. **Judge John England, Jr.**, served as the chair of the Working Group. Judge England recently retired as a circuit judge for the Sixth Judicial District and previously served on the Alabama State Supreme Court.
- ii. Other members of the Working Group were:
 1. **Barbara Humphrey**, an athletic coach from Birmingham
 2. **Vanessa Leonard**, an attorney from Rockford, Alabama
 3. **Harris Morrissette**, a business executive from Mobile
 4. **Scott Phelps**, an attorney and business executive from Tuscaloosa
 5. **Stan Starnes**, an attorney and business executive from Birmingham
- iii. **Ronald Gray**, a business executive from Huntsville, attended all meetings of the Working Group during his tenure as President Pro Tempore. **W. Stancil Starnes**, who succeeded Mr. Gray as President Pro Tempore on September 17, 2020, continued to serve on the Working Group as both a member and as President Pro Tempore of the Board.

e. Support Personnel:

- i. **Finis E. St. John, IV**, Chancellor of the University of Alabama System, attended all meetings of the Working Group.

- ii. **Mark Foley**, Secretary of the Board, also attended all meetings and served as the principal liaison between the Working Group and the campuses.
- iii. **Dr. Stuart Bell**, president of the University of Alabama, joined the Working Group's deliberations through the late spring and summer of 2021 as members concluded their review of names at the Tuscaloosa campus.
- iv. **Edwin C. Bridges**, retired director of the Alabama Department of Archives and History, attended Working Group meetings and served as a historical consultant, providing contextual background information, contacting other outside historians, and assisting in preparing resolutions and reports.
- v. **Gene A. Ford**, a retired professor of architectural history at UA, also served as a consultant to the Working Group and provided extensive research profiles on most of the subjects who were considered in depth. Dr. Ford's research reports served as the basic information set for each subject that Working Group members considered in depth.
- vi. In addition, the Working Group sought information and advice from more than a dozen other scholars specializing in Alabama history. Contacts with these specialists ranged from informal telephone conversations and in-person meetings to formally commissioned studies. Working Group members thank these scholars for their generous assistance. Their thoughts and suggestions greatly enriched members' understanding of the subjects under review. The Working Group extends special thanks to Dr. Sam Webb, a retired history professor from UAB, who prepared additional research reports on two of the more challenging figures under review. His essays were substantial, thoughtful, and informative.

2. Methodology and Chronology

- a. The Working Group met almost every week, except for the weeks of Board meetings and major holidays, from June 2020 through October 2021.
- b. At their organizational meetings in June 2020, members reviewed reports from other universities that have undertaken similar initiatives to try to learn from their experiences. After completing these reviews, the Working Group prepared an initial set of guidelines for their review process based on ideas from the reports, on Mr. Gray's charge to the Working Group, and on their

own reflections. They also engaged the two historical consultants noted above, Gene Ford and Ed Bridges.

- c. An important understanding that continued for the duration of the Working Group's service was that members would try to achieve consensus on every recommendation submitted for consideration by the Board. Since the larger purpose of the entire review process was to work toward a system-wide environment of openness and inclusivity, Working Group discussions were conducted in such a way that every member was encouraged to express fully his or her views and concerns. In each decision, the Chair made every effort to ensure that all concerns were not only heard but fully considered and resolved to the satisfaction of the entire Working Group. This commitment to consensus decisions did not mean that every member saw each issue the same way or agreed on the relative importance of the different considerations, but the final recommendations to the Board were always decisions agreed upon by every member.
- d. Because the Tuscaloosa campus is the oldest institution in the UA System with the largest number of potentially problematic names, Working Group members began with it. In July 2020, they reviewed a list of all named buildings on the campus based on their own knowledge, communications from within the University, and comments from historical consultants. In this initial review, three names stood out as clearly problematic, while other names were noted for additional research. Members agreed that focusing first on the clearly problematic names would:
 - i. allow them to test and refine their criteria and procedures,
 - ii. enable the Board to demonstrate its determination to act when action was warranted, and
 - iii. provide additional time for research and deliberation on subjects whose histories presented more complex assessment challenges.
- e. The Working Group also adopted the practice, where possible, of contacting the families of those whose names were being considered for change. These contacts were a courtesy to the families, many of whom had long connections to the UA System. The exchanges also allowed family members the opportunity to submit additional information for the Working Group to consider, helping ensure that members had a full and rounded view of each subject. Without exception, the families were gracious and appreciated the Working Group's task of trying to ensure that building names today are consistent with the UA System's values.

- f. After reviewing the detailed research reports prepared by Mr. Ford on the initial three subjects and consulting with other historians and appropriate University officials, the Working Group drafted and submitted three resolutions for Board consideration:
 - i. At a special-called meeting of the Board on August 5, 2020, the Board voted to amend the name of **Nott Hall** to **Honors Hall**.
 - ii. At the Annual Meeting of the Board on September 17, 2020, the Board voted to amend the name of **Morgan Hall** to **English Building**.
 - iii. At a meeting of the Board on November 13, 2020, the Board voted to amend the name of **Manly Hall** to **Presidents Hall**.

(Summaries of the Working Group's rationale for all its recommendations are provided in Section 4 below. The texts of the actual resolutions are in the Appendix.)

- g. For some subjects whose lives and careers required more in-depth study, the research and evaluation process lasted more than a year as the Working Group continued to receive information and considered possible options.
- h. In late October 2020, while the Working Group continued evaluating names from the Tuscaloosa campus, it also began a review of names from the University of Alabama at Birmingham campus. Following the same procedures used for the first three resolutions, the Group submitted two recommendations regarding UAB for consideration by the Board:
 - i. At a meeting on February 5, 2021, the Board voted to amend the name of the **George C. Wallace Building** to the **Physical Education Building**.
 - ii. At the same meeting, the Board voted to amend the name of the **J. Marion Sims Endowed Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology** to the **Endowed Chair of Obstetrics and Gynecology**.
- i. From March through May 2021, the Working Group continued its in-depth review of remaining names from the University of Alabama campus and also began its review of names from the University of Alabama at Huntsville campus. Members concluded the UAH review in May without submitting any recommendations to the Board.

- j. During this same time, the Working Group concurred in a request from Dean Mark Brandon of the University of Alabama School of Law regarding the name of the School's **John A. Campbell Moot Court Competition**. Following an extensive review by a committee within the School of Law, Dean Brandon wrote to the Working Group summarizing the committee's findings and recommending that Justice Campbell's name be removed from the competition and the corresponding law school course. In an April 22, 2021 letter from Judge England to Dean Brandon, the Working Group formally concurred in Dean Brandon's recommendation (*Attachment #2 in the Appendix.*)
- k. Working Group members continued their deliberations through the summer of 2021. By this time, they had reviewed the name of every building and space at all three campuses of the UA System. Some reviews that did not lead to formal recommendations were extensive, with hundreds of pages of documentation, consultations with outside historians, and long discussions within the Working Group. Although members conducted what they believe was a thorough and thoughtful examination of the entire list of names, they recognize that in the study of history new insights appear over time as research continues and perspectives change. (*Attachment #3 in the appendix is a listing of all the names reviewed.*)
- l. As the Working Group considered the remaining names from the University of Alabama list, members recognized that two buildings under review were also significant sites in the history of African American life on the campus. Decisions to alter these building names created unanticipated opportunities to honor two landmark figures who were related to those structures, Mrs. Atherine Lucy Foster and Dr. Archie B. Wade. Proposals for honoring Dr. Wade and Ms. Lucy [Mrs. Foster] were included in two of the three concluding recommendations submitted to the Board of Trustees:
 - i. At a meeting of the Board on September 17, 2021, the Board voted to amend the name of **Moore Hall** to **Wade Hall**.
 - ii. At a meeting of the Board on September 17, 2021, the Board voted to amend the name of **Ferguson Student Center** to the University of Alabama Student Center and to name the theater inside the Center the **Ferguson Theater**.
 - iii. Along with its final report, the Working Group submitted a recommendation to amend the name of **Graves Hall** to **Lucy-Graves Hall** for consideration by the Board at its meeting on February 3, 2022.

3. Guiding Considerations

In developing its recommendations, the Working Group was guided by a complex set of considerations. They included:

- a. the directions set by President Pro Tempore Ron Gray in his charge to the Working Group (noted in Section 1 above);
- b. the values of diversity, inclusion, and respect expressed in the UA System's statements of its Vision and Mission, its Core Values, and its Goal;
- c. an assessment of the named individual's relationship to the UA System and the degree to which that person's life and achievements reflect values of the UA System;
- d. a respectful posture toward decisions of past Boards and an expectation that any alteration of a past decision required a thorough and thoughtful evaluation before proceeding with a recommendation;
- e. a reluctance to change names solely because past honorees reflected general views of the time in which they lived that are not acceptable today or acted according to standards that were legal at the time but are not legal today;
- f. a recognition that every person's life entails complex sets of elements, each of which may be weighed differently by different people, such as:
 - i. the subject's larger goals and intentions,
 - ii. the total balance of positives against negatives, and
 - iii. how the subject changed over time and the direction of that change;
- g. an assessment of the subject's impact on other people:
 - i. whether the person's words and/or deeds were egregious and harmful in their effects, and/or
 - ii. whether the person played a role in leading others in either constructive or harmful directions;

- h. the desire to develop recommendations that will best serve the interests of UA System institutions and of the many people who study and serve in those institutions.

4. Recommendations of the Working Group:

The rationale for the Working Group's recommendation on each resolution is include below in the order in which the name changes were considered by the Board.

- a. Nott Hall

Dr. Josiah Nott was an influential figure in early Alabama medicine. Before the Civil War, he led efforts in Mobile to treat epidemics and to strengthen the practice of medicine in Alabama. One of his initiatives was helping found a medical school that would, after reorganizing and moving several times, eventually become the University of Alabama School of Medicine in Birmingham.

But Dr. Nott was also a prominent defender of slavery and the enormous injustices it entailed. Using arguments he represented as scientific, Dr. Nott published theories of racial differentiation that served as a justification for white supremacy and slavery. Additionally, when he was asked to help reopen the Medical College of Alabama after its closure from 1861-1868, he declined to do so.

After its review, the Working Group concluded that:

- Dr. Nott's prominence in defending slavery and his conspicuous role in propagating inaccurate and harmful justifications of white supremacy under the guise of science were inconsistent in a variety of ways with the values and principles of the University of Alabama System today, and
- the name on the building previously known as Nott Hall should be amended to Honors Hall.

- b. Morgan Hall

John Tyler Morgan was a major political figure in Alabama from the years before the Civil War until the early 1900s. He was also instrumental in securing a substantial federal land grant for the University of Alabama to compensate for the destruction of campus buildings by Union troops during the Civil War. Sen. Morgan's considerable service still benefits the University of Alabama today, and the Working Group acknowledges this service with gratitude.

However, Sen. Morgan was also a leading defender in Alabama of white supremacy for the entire span of his public life. He actively supported

secession and was a leader in the Secession Convention. He readily embraced the option of war in order to maintain slavery, and he risked his life in combat to sustain the cause he advocated. After the Civil War, he worked vigorously to restore white supremacy in Alabama in defiance of federal efforts to ensure equal rights for freedmen. (He was said by some to have been a leader of the Ku Klux Klan, but since the Klan was a secret organization, those allegations have been difficult for historians either to confirm or deny.) After the end of Reconstruction, Morgan served for thirty years as a U.S. Senator from Alabama. In the Senate, Morgan continued working to maintain white supremacy and to limit the rights of African Americans.

After completing their review of Sen. Morgan's life and works, Working Group members concluded that:

- Sen. Morgan's efforts over half a century to maintain white supremacy and to suppress rights of, and opportunities for, African Americans are in dramatic conflict with the principles and values of the UA System today, and
- Senator Morgan made very public disparaging remarks directed towards African Americans;
- the name of the building previously known as Morgan Hall should be amended to the English Building; and
- the University of Alabama should place a plaque inside of the building to explain the reasons not only for the University's gratitude to Senator Morgan but also for the decision to change the building name.

c. Manly Hall

Basil Manly, Sr., was the second president of the University of Alabama, appointed in 1837 and serving until 1855. For eighteen years, he led in bringing order to campus life, strengthening the faculty, and raising academic standards. His time as president was an important chapter in the life of the University of Alabama, and his contributions to the University were substantial.

Dr. Manly was, however, also a prominent defender of slavery. As an educational leader as well as a leader in the Baptist denomination, he proclaimed for four decades that slavery was ordained by God. In his speeches and writings, he helped craft a religious justification for slavery that hardened the determination of many white Southerners to defend the institution. In his own journals, he recorded accounts of whippings he personally administered as UA President to enslaved people owned by the University. Dr. Manly also welcomed secession and supported the South's willingness to go to war to continue slavery and the way of life it made possible.

Despite his considerable service, which the Working Group acknowledges with gratitude, the Working Group concluded that:

- Dr. Manly’s leadership and actions in the defense of slavery, secession, and war are in fundamental conflict with the principles and values of the UA System today, and
- the name of the building previously known as Manly Hall should be amended to Presidents Hall to recognize and honor the faithful service of all former presidents of the University of Alabama.

d. George C. Wallace Building

George C. Wallace was a graduate of the University of Alabama and of the University of Alabama School of Law. He was elected governor of Alabama in 1962, 1970, 1974, and 1982 and was a candidate for president of the United States in 1964, 1968, and 1972.

As a political leader, Gov. Wallace built his career on exploiting racial conflict, in the process stoking racial tensions in the United States and intensifying the focus on race as an issue in American political life. He also inflicted considerable direct injury to the University of Alabama by politicizing its efforts to obey its legal and moral obligations to end segregation. Gov. Wallace’s name continues today as a national symbol of white racial animosity and of continuing resistance to full civil rights for black Americans.

Despite his national prominence, the constructive service he rendered the UA System from time to time, and his latter-life recantations and apologies, the Working Group concluded that:

- Gov. Wallace’s longtime exploitation of racial resentments to advance his personal career and the great damage he caused to the UA System and the nation outweigh his achievements and positive contributions, and
- the name of the building previously known as the George C. Wallace Building at the University of Alabama at Birmingham should be amended to the Physical Education Building.

e. James Marion Sims Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology at UAB

J. Marion Sims was an internationally known gynecologist in the last half of the nineteenth century and has been regarded for generations as the “father of modern gynecology.” Dr. Sims began his medical practice in Alabama, where he conducted the extensive experiments on which his later success was built. The improved knowledge and treatment practices he developed in this research ultimately benefitted untold thousands of women.

The subjects of Dr. Sims' research, however, were enslaved African American women, many of whom were repeatedly subjected to excruciatingly painful procedures in a time before general anesthesia was used. While some medical historians today see the procedures as within the standards of treatment of the time, other researchers regard Dr. Sims' practices as an especially pernicious form of racial exploitation. We almost certainly will never have final, definitive knowledge about the relationship between Dr. Sims and his subjects or about their feelings regarding the treatment to which they were subjected. It is clear, however, that these questions seriously cloud Dr. Sims' reputation.

Given this uncertainty, the extent to which Dr. Sims' experiments resonate with many other abusive experiments that are widely known in modern history, and the fact that Dr. Sims' subjects were all members of an already exploited class of people, the Working Group recommended that the Board:

- accept the recommendation of a faculty committee appointed by the Dean of the Medical School, Dr. Selwyn Vickers, to change the name of the endowed chair; and
- amend the name from the James Marion Sims Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology to the Endowed Chair in Obstetrics and Gynecology.

f. John Archibald Campbell Moot Court Competition

John Archibald Campbell was one of Alabama's most famous and distinguished jurists. In Mobile, where he settled in 1837, he quickly won a reputation as an outstanding young lawyer, appearing in numerous cases before the U. S. Supreme Court. Based on recommendations submitted by the justices themselves, President Franklin Pierce nominated Campbell to the Court in 1853. Justice Campbell was regarded in the South as a moderate on slavery, personally viewing slavery as wrong and freeing his own slaves. As Southern states began seceding from the Union in the winter of 1860-61, Campbell sought energetically to negotiate a settlement that would prevent war. Once the Civil War began, however, Justice Campbell resigned his seat on the Court, returned to the South, and accepted a post in the Confederate government as Assistant Secretary of War.

Although Justice Campbell was seen by many as a moderate on slavery, he was in his private career and in his tenure as a justice of the Supreme Court a forceful defender of the principle of states' rights, the major legal argument Southern states used in defending slavery. His association with the defense of slavery was massively strengthened by his concurrence in the *Dred Scott* decision of 1857. Many scholars regard this decision as one of, if not the, worst decisions in U.S. legal history. According to the *Dred*

Scott decision, the U.S. Constitution never intended that people of African ancestry, whether slave or free, could become citizens of the United States. It also opened to slavery western territories previously designated as free.

The question before the Working Group regarding Justice Campbell was less a determination on the overall merits of his life and career than a question of whether the School of Law could change a name that the former Dean established internally before decisions about the names of places and programs were reserved to the Board of Trustees. Although the Board now has the exclusive authority to remove a name and ordinarily would have removed it by a resolution, the Working Group did not believe Board action was necessary in this instance because: (1) the program was an intramural competition within the School of Law, and (2) the name had never been considered and approved by the Board.

In response to two memoranda from Dean Brandon, the Working Group concurred with his recommendation that it was “in the Law School’s best interest” “to remove Justice Campbell’s name from the competition.” (*See attachment #4 in the appendix.*)

g. Moore Hall

As Working Group members considered the name of Moore Hall, they were aware of a proposal by faculty members in the Department of Kinesiology regarding a pioneer member of that Department. Moore Hall is an important site in the history of the University of Alabama because the first African American member of the faculty, Dr. Archie Wade, worked there as a member of the Department of Kinesiology.

Prior to joining the University of Alabama, Dr. Wade was an instructor at Stillman College. He was one of the first three African Americans to attend a football game in then-Denny Stadium as regular spectators, an initial step in desegregating athletic events at the University. He also assisted Coach Paul Bryant in helping integrate the football team itself by recruiting black athletes. And Dr. Wade served for thirty years, from 1970 to 2000, as a professor of kinesiology at the University, contributing directly as a leader and by example to the desegregation of the University faculty. Dr. Wade retired from the University as a beloved and admired teacher and colleague whose services to the University were enormous.

Dr. Albert Burton Moore, for whom the building was previously named, was a prominent historian and an academic leader at the University of Alabama. He chaired the History Department from 1923 until 1951, and he led in establishing and building the Graduate School, serving as its first dean from 1925 until his retirement in 1958. As longtime chair of the Faculty Committee on Athletics, Dr. Moore represented the University of Alabama with the National Collegiate Athletic Association and was elected its

president in 1951. An important scholar as well, Dr. Moore's 995-page *History of Alabama* was the principal scholarly text on the state's history for almost sixty years. His election as president of the Southern Historical Association in 1942 reflected the stature he enjoyed as a historian.

Despite his extensive contributions to the University of Alabama and his impressive achievements as a scholar, Dr. Moore's legacy is recognized today as having been deeply flawed by its lack of balance and its harmful impact. His writings repeated negative stereotypes and attitudes about African Americans and portrayed a history in which the evils of slavery and segregation were minimized. His work also stoked fears among white Alabamians of dangers that might arise if black Alabamians were not kept in subordination, and it supported the claims of politicians that white Alabamians had to fight, almost at all costs, to maintain segregation.

To honor Dr. Wade and to reflect their judgment that the name of Moore Hall needed to be changed, members of the Working Group recommended to the Board at its September 17, 2021 meeting that the name of the Moore Hall be amended to Wade Hall.

h. Ferguson Student Center

William Hill Ferguson was a remarkable student and even more remarkable alumnus. He won Phi Beta Kappa honors for his academic accomplishments, played on Alabama's 1896 football team, served in the Alabama Corps of Cadets, was an active fraternity member, and helped form the glee club. During a year in law school, he also managed the *Corolla*, the school yearbook.

As an alumni leader in the early 1900s, Mr. Ferguson planned and led the state-wide Greater University Campaign, helping raise funds for three new buildings and other improvements that provided a strong new campus base for the expanding University. In 1919, his service earned him election to the Board of Trustees, where he continued as a dedicated leader for the next forty years. He served as President Pro Tempore of the Board for the last twelve of those years.

However, Mr. Ferguson was also strongly committed late in his tenure to maintaining the University as a racially segregated institution. Though Mr. Ferguson's motivation for his actions is hard to discern, it is clear that, in 1952, when a federal court ordered the admission of Autherine Lucy, Mr. Ferguson fought to delay and circumvent the court's mandate—delays which allowed time for strident segregationists to build force in opposition to desegregation. In February 1956, when Ms. Lucy was finally admitted, a series of demonstrations escalated into violent riots. Under Mr. Ferguson's leadership, the Board succeeded in finding a pretext for expelling Ms. Lucy, thus preserving segregation for a few more years. Even after leaving the

Board in 1959, Mr. Ferguson continued to express racist views about the intelligence of African Americans that are inconsistent with the current values of the UA System.

Despite his many substantial contributions to the University of Alabama, Mr. Ferguson's relentless efforts to maintain segregation after it had been ruled illegal raised a cloud over his legacy that members of the Working Group felt could not be ignored. The Student Center's function as a gathering place in which all students should feel welcomed made the case for a name change even more compelling.

After extensive deliberations, the Working Group concluded that Mr. Ferguson's struggle to maintain segregation was incompatible with the values of the UA System today. At the same time, the Working Group wanted to honor Mr. Ferguson's extraordinary service and contributions in a less prominent way. Attempting to balance these considerations, the Working Group recommended to the Board of Trustees on September 17, 2021, that:

- the name of the Ferguson Student Center be amended to the University of Alabama Student Center, and
- the name of the theater inside the Center be named the Ferguson Theater.

i. Bibb Graves Hall

Bibb Graves' name was the most difficult and time-consuming of all those reviewed by the Working Group. On one hand, Gov. Graves is regarded by many historians as one of, if not the, most progressive and effective governors in the history of the state. He was able to generate massive funding increases for Alabama's starved education system, and the University of Alabama was a major beneficiary. He also led in improving the state's social services, public health, and highway programs. During the New Deal, he was a vigorous force supporting federal initiatives that aided and improved life for hundreds of thousands of Alabamians.

There is a reasonable argument that Gov. Graves did more to directly benefit black Alabamians than any other governor in the state's history. In addition to the general programs that helped both white and black Alabamians, he pushed to end the convict lease system, which had become a vicious engine of both labor exploitation and racial repression. He created a Division of Negro Education within the State Department of Education overseen by a black educator, perhaps the first black professional state employee since the end of Reconstruction. He helped expand what is now Alabama State University from a two-year to a four-year institution, substantially enlarged its campus, and provided funding for new buildings. He upgraded facilities at Searcy Hospital, the mental health facility that served black Alabamians. And he vetoed and killed a major eugenics bill

passed by the legislature that would have authorized state agencies to implement programs of involuntary sterilization, likely to have been used disproportionately on black Alabamians.

Weighing against this impressive list of contributions, however, is the fact that Gov. Graves was not only a member of the Ku Klux Klan but, for a time, the grand cyclops of a Montgomery klavern. The basic question for the Working Group was whether the considerable burden of Gov. Graves' Klan connections outweighed a career of major achievements and service. Historians have debated the same question about Gov. Graves' contemporary, Hugo Black. Justice Black was a Klan member at the same time as Graves, but later, as a justice on the US Supreme Court, he helped shape a long series of groundbreaking decisions that strengthened civil liberties and civil rights protections for the entire country.

In trying to weigh the competing considerations about Gov. Graves, Working Group members tried to examine where his Klan membership fit in the larger arc of his life, whether it reflected any personal racial hostility, and whether his Klan associations led to larger harm or injury. Despite extensive research, the Working Group found no evidence of racial hatred or of hostile actions against African American at any time in Gov. Graves's life. On the contrary, as noted above, his record shows numerous beneficial actions despite the fact that, with black voters excluded at the time from the Democratic primaries, those actions brought him no political benefit.

Most historians have concluded that Gov. Graves' connections with the Klan, while deplorable, were more a matter of political expediency than of any racial animus. His entire political career focused on working-class Alabamians—trying to win their support and fighting for programs that would improve their lives. His political ambitions in the early 1920s were to build a white working-class coalition that could defeat the “Big Mules,” who controlled the state, and then to initiate reforms that they had long blocked. As he planned his campaign for governor, the Klan was by far the largest organized group of working-class white voters in the state, and he had to have their support to win.

Non-historians often see any Klan association as evil, but there have been different klans over the last 150 years with different characteristics. The first Klan, a violent, terrorist organization formed after the end of the Civil War, was disbanded in the 1870s under the pressure of federal prosecutions. The second Klan of the 1920s was formed in the aftermath of the popular movie *Birth of a Nation*, which was a romanticized portrayal of the first Klan. Members of the second Klan sought to imitate the themes and images of the movie, but politically they were part of a broad nativist reaction to the disruptions of post-World War I America. They claimed to be advocates of “Pure Americanism.” The KKK of the 1950s and 1960s was still another iteration.

After winning election as governor in 1926, Gov. Graves let his Klan membership lapse, but he did not publicize this separation. He was also hesitant to intervene in response to local acts of violence by some Klan elements, which grew worse over the next two years. He argued that responding to these acts was the responsibility of local officials. As governor, Graves still needed to keep his coalition together to move his proposals through the legislature.

After months of reading, research, and deliberation about Gov. Graves, Working Group members still struggled to find a solution that seemed fitting and fair. The Working Group was reluctant to conclude that a temporary association of apparent political expediency should totally outweigh the good achieved by a life and a career that had such a positive impact on the State, and the educational opportunities afforded by an in-depth study of the life of Gov. Graves appeared substantial. Additionally, the story of Gov. Graves's life is itself a valuable window into an important part of Alabama's and the University's history. Yet, Gov. Graves' Klan membership remained a concern that should not simply be dismissed. Working Group members also recognized the general perception today that any Klan member must have been, by definition, racist and evil, and they did not wish for the UA System to appear indifferent to those perceptions because it is not.

As Working Group members wrestled with these issues, they also learned more about the history of Graves Hall—and about its association with another Alabamian whose life represents courage, honor, service, and leadership. In ways that reflect critical changes in Alabama over the last century, the story of Autherine Lucy's life complements and completes that of Gov. Graves. His life was marred by a Klan association that he had to cultivate in order to succeed politically. Ms. Lucy was driven from the University by Klan violence in 1956, but later returned in triumph, a sign of the Klan's defeat and a symbol of a renewed University of Alabama now open to people of all races.

Autherine Lucy grew up in Marengo County, Alabama. She attended Selma University and graduated from Miles College in 1952. That summer, she joined her friend, Pollie Anne Myers in applying for admission to the University of Alabama for an additional degree to strengthen her credentials. Both women were accepted by the schools in the University to which they applied but were then rejected when the University registrar realized they were not white. In February 1956, after more than two years of litigation, Ms. Lucy was finally admitted to the University of Alabama by order of a federal judge.

From the Friday of her first day of classes (February 3) through the Monday of her second, a series of initially student-led demonstrations escalated into campus riots as outsiders, including violent members of the

Ku Klux Klan, joined the protests. On Ms. Lucy's second day of classes, University officials helped her escape a growing mob that gathered in front of Smith Hall. They drove her to her next class in the School of Education Library (now McClure) adjoining Graves Hall. When the mob surrounded the library and Graves Hall, Ms. Lucy sheltered in the library for several hours, but was able to escape a second time when the mob was diverted by the arrival of a black man who had come to pick Ms. Lucy up and who also narrowly escaped injury.

Following her second escape, the Board of Trustees suspended Ms. Lucy for her own protection. After the NAACP filed a follow-up lawsuit in her name that also accused the Board of Trustees of conspiring with the rioters, the Board expelled Ms. Lucy for her accusations against it. As legal actions continued, Ms. Lucy felt obligated to leave Alabama for her own safety, but she also had her own private life to pursue. In April, she married Rev. Hugh Lawrence Foster, whom she had known as a student at Miles. For a brief time, Ms. Lucy [Mrs. Foster] continued to be active nationally as a civil rights speaker, but eventually her personal life became more important, and she withdrew from national attention. With their growing family, the Fosters moved numerous times as Rev. Foster accepted different pastorates in other states. In 1971, Ms. Lucy and her family returned to Alabama, and she became a teacher in Birmingham.

The intensity and violence of the riots following Ms. Lucy's admission became an international news story. The University enrolled no other African American students until 1963, when Vivian Malone and James Hood were admitted after Gov. George Wallace postured in resistance with his "stand in the schoolhouse door." But this time, large numbers of federalized National Guard troops ensured that the orders of the federal court were carried out and that public safety was protected.

In 1988, the Board of Trustees formally annulled Ms. Lucy's expulsion, acknowledging in the process its earlier failures. The next year, Ms. Lucy enrolled in the College of Education as a master's degree candidate while her daughter Grazia enrolled as an undergraduate. Ms. Lucy completed her coursework in 1991 and formally graduated with Grazia in 1992. In her return, Ms. Lucy not only forgave the earlier injustices to which she had been subjected but also embraced the University that had expelled her more than three decades earlier. She stands as a continuing testament not only to courage, but to a generosity and greatness of spirit that deserves to be honored for generations to come.

Graves Hall was the home of the School of Education in which Ms. Lucy studied. Her many years of service to young people exemplifies the Department's mission in preparing future teachers. In recommending that Ms. Lucy's name be added to the building, the Working Group sought to recognize both her leadership in overcoming the blight of racial segregation

and her life as a dedicated educator. In retaining the name of Gov. Graves, the Working Group sought to acknowledge another life of service, even with its shortcomings. Together, the stories of these two remarkable Alabamians help tell a another one--of the UA System's journey from a past marred by racial injustice to its commitment today to diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect.

5. Concluding Comments

In concluding this work, members of the Working Group acknowledge the fact that changing names is a largely symbolic action. But symbols are important. Building names are a highly visible way universities honor people who have made important contributions and/or whose lives are worthy of recognition. Also, in the course of time, an institution's names come to reflect, and in part to tell, its history.

In addition to these functions, an institution's names help express its values. For many Alabamians and for many Americans, the continued recognition of people who in the past led in inflicting massive injustice may suggest that UA System institutions today still respect the values and attitudes those people represented. The need now to ensure that UA System names are consistent with its values was at the core of this review process.

Working Group members also wish to note that changing the names of a few buildings is not a denial or a concealment of history. The stories of the people from the past whose names are being removed will continue to be documented in records and books. And, in most instances, their stories will be told more fully than they were previously inside the buildings on which their names appeared.

Finally, making these changes presented us with two opportunities to tell the story of our past more fully. For many generations, Alabama's historical narratives largely ignored a major part of our population as well as the heavy burden of the injustices to which they were subjected. In fact, the way we told our history often served to justify those injustices and even to honor people who participated in them. Changing names at two of the buildings has given us a chance to recognize the presence and contributions of black Alabamians who were also associated with those sites and to include their stories as part of our common, shared story.

As members of the UA System Board's Working Group on Named Structures and Places, we have been honored to be part of this review process. It has been enriching to spend this time exploring our history and gratifying to be able to work together as colleagues with so much good will and mutual respect. We hope the changes we have recommended will contribute to the betterment of the institutions in the UA System and to a welcoming environment in which all members of our community can flourish.

Supplemental Report
University of Alabama System
Working Group on
Named Structures and Spaces
Adopted on February 11, 2022

The University of Alabama is an Institution of Higher Education, first and foremost. The principal mission is to teach.

The recommendation of the Working Group to rename Graves Hall to Lucy-Graves Hall was an effort to tell the complicated history of the state of Alabama, the University of Alabama, and the complicated history of education in this state particularly as it relates to race.

That Autherine Lucy Foster deserves recognition in a monumental fashion is beyond doubt. For example, Dr. Foster is already honored in by a clock tower on the Malone-Hood Plaza. There is also a historical marker with a plaque in front of the what is currently Graves Hall memorializing certain events in her journey to the University, and there will soon be a plaza between what is currently Graves Hall and McClure Library that memorializes her leadership in overcoming the blight of racial segregation. So this particular recommendation to rename Graves Hall was not just about further honoring the heroic actions of Autherine Lucy Foster. It was about blazing forward and sharing with future generations the complexities of our State and University history, not just with minorities, but with all groups, especially with non-minorities where history is too often side-stepped because it is unpleasant or difficult. Additionally, it was a recommendation seeking to memorialize our resolve to move forward together. Frankly we thought this name pairing would force that discourse and we also discussed other ways to be more deliberative and instructive pursuing this objective.

The history of Bibb Graves is nuanced and complicated as evidenced by the several thousand pages of materials prepared for the consideration of the Working Group and the Board by multiple historians. There was much he did which was enlightened and good, both as judged by the standards of his time, now nearly a century ago, and those standards of today. But there was also conduct we regard as indefensible and impossible to simply ignore and remain consistent with what we view as the values of the Institution we all love. Indeed when viewed in the context of his time much of the good that he did was nothing short of courageous while his deplorable actions were not so regarded by many at the time and were regrettably in keeping with the prevalent conduct of the day. His name was first bestowed on Graves Hall in 1928 by a prior Board as a tribute to all Governor Graves did for education. Our Working Group carefully considered and thoroughly reviewed the history of Bibb Graves, as outlined in our earlier report in a process that spanned nearly two years.

We should be clear on this point. We deplore his affiliation with the Klan. We do not defend that affiliation and it was that affiliation that caused the Working Group to consider removing or altering the building name. But it would have been intellectually dishonest, even in the name of “political correctness,” to ignore the good accomplished by Governor Graves, all of which is detailed for consideration in the report of the Working Group to the Board. Also to be clear, the

historical support received by the working group was substantial and curated for us by a preeminent historian. In other words we did not pick and choose among preexisting opinions. Where there was no dissent among the historians contributing to this process was their conclusion Governor Graves was one of the most progressive Governors in the history of the State of Alabama. We clearly struggled to ignore that advice.

Thus the recommendation was made to pair his name with, although after, the student name of Autherine Lucy Foster who as a student had a meaningful historical connection to that same building. Such was intended to reflect a transition to a new era and an opportunity for learning, deliberation and evaluation of a past era. It was intended to spark reflection and dialog as students in that building reflect on a period of history as our Country moved from "separate but equal" to "separate but equal is inherently unequal". It was for these reasons the Working Group recommended the change to the name of Graves Hall. We continue to think that such intent was worthwhile and we will endeavor to find other suitable means to accomplish sparking that discussion. Our engagement with student and faculty leaders on this issue after our initial recommendation has given us great encouragement those means will be found.

It is clear the naming we proposed has become a substantial distraction from the overall body of work of the Working Group and this Board of Trustees, and the primary focus of the Working Group and Board of Trustees with respect to this particular recommendation. We intended to honor the life and legacy of Autherine Lucy Foster and her esteemed place in the history of Alabama. We do not wish anything to dilute this intention. She is a person of honor, courage and devotion to all we hold dear and all that is important to us today. Her courage and grace were once again clearly demonstrated by granting permission to present her name in the fashion we previously recommended. We are unwilling to risk tarnishing her legacy.

Therefore, and, to remove all doubt as to our true purpose and to avoid any risk of misinterpretation of our prior recommendation, we now recommend that what is currently known as Graves Hall henceforth be known as Autherine Lucy Hall.