

Resolution

Amending the Name of Moore Hall to Wade Hall

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

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; and

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; and

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; and

WHEREAS, based upon consultation with several historical experts and its own investigation, the working group reviewed the name of Moore Hall at the University of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, on December 13, 1975, the Board of Trustees named the "UA Health Physical Education and Recreation Building adjoining Little Hall . . . in memory of Dean Albert B. Moore" in recognition of Dr. Moore's contributions to the University of Alabama, including serving as the inaugural dean of the Graduate School, improving the curriculum in the Department of History, and serving as Chairman of the UA Athletic Committee and President of the National Collegiate Athletic Association; and

WHEREAS, after due consideration, the working group recommended that the Board of Trustees amend the name of Moore Hall to Wade Hall to honor Dr. Archie Wade; and

WHEREAS, a native of Madison County, Alabama, Dr. Wade moved to Tuscaloosa when he was a teenager and graduated from Druid High School in 1957, when Tuscaloosa City Schools were still segregated; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade attended Stillman College on an athletic scholarship and graduated in 1962 with a certificate to teach physical education; and

WHEREAS, after graduation, Dr. Wade became an instructor and assistant

baseball/basketball coach at Stillman, and he earned his master's degree in physical education and business at West Virginia University; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade also played several seasons of minor league baseball with the St. Louis Cardinals organization and had the highest batting average in the Class A Florida League in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade was one of three African American spectators – including Dr. Joffre Whisenton, the first African American to earn a PhD at the University of Alabama – to integrate the stands at then-Denny Stadium in September 1964, and, in his own words, did so to “see Namath play” and for “the love of football, not aspirations to be [a] trailblazer[]”; and

WHEREAS, in 1970, Dr. Wade became the first African American faculty member at the University of Alabama and worked in the Department of Kinesiology from 1970 to 2000; and

WHEREAS, as Drs. Gunars Cazars and Matthew Curtner-Smith aptly described in “Legacy of a Pioneer African American Educator,” Dr. Wade was a fitting choice to integrate the faculty at the University of Alabama: “He had many of the same qualities for which his idol, Jackie Robinson, had been selected to break the color barrier in major league baseball . . . he was strong of character and possessed deep religious convictions, but was also quietly determined, level, thoughtful, and somewhat reserved”; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade spent two years as a recruiter for the University's football team under legendary Coach Paul “Bear” Bryant and was instrumental in recruiting some of Coach Bryant's first African American football players; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Wade earned his doctorate degree from the University of Alabama in 1974, ultimately became a tenured professor of kinesiology, and was a founding member of the Black Faculty and Staff Association; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, as part of the University's “Through the Doors” event, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the integration of the University, the University honored Dr. Wade and placed a plaque in Moore Hall, where he had an office and taught classes before his retirement in 2000; and

WHEREAS, in the course of its review, the working group also determined that certain aspects of Dr. Moore's legacy were inconsistent with the current values of the University of Alabama System; and

WHEREAS, the working group found that Dr. Moore's publications about Southern history were full of romanticisms, stereotypes, and mischaracterizations about the antebellum South and Reconstruction that helped perpetuate Lost Cause

ideologies and that Dr. Moore's writing and teaching of Alabama history helped provide a broad ideological justification and defense for the injustices that were inflicted on African Americans in the system of racial segregation; and

WHEREAS, although it recognized that the Supreme Court did not hold until 1954 that racial segregation in public schools was unconstitutional, the working group also found that Dr. Moore disingenuously replied to a 1944 African American applicant to the University of Alabama that it offered no courses in the area of the applicant's interest to obscure the fact that he was denying admission on the basis of race; and

WHEREAS, the working group's recommendation to rename Moore Hall to Wade Hall has the unanimous support of the faculty of Department of Kinesiology, which will continue to be located in Wade Hall;

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