



Report of the Subcommittee on Recontextualization
Building Naming Task Force

February 5, 2021

Thomas Reese (Chair, Building Review Task Force)
Professor of Art History; Executive Director, Stone Center for Latin American Studies

The Subcommittee on Recontextualization prepared the following report that the Task Force endorses and recommends to the President and the Board of Administrators for consideration.

Throughout the task force's meetings and deliberations, several issues were raised and discussed that do not fall within the task force's charge from the president. However, the task force thought that the administration should consider the following recommendations.

Among many programs adopted at universities and other institutions that had confronted the challenges of confronting problematic elements in their history, the Subcommittee found the comprehensive, long term approach laid out in the "Report on Memorialization and Mission" of the University of Virginia to be the most satisfactory of those that have been advanced by peer institutions. It recommended that UVA "embark on a comprehensive and systematic evaluation of all problematic building names, monuments, and memorials across Grounds, subjecting them to a detailed review leading to potential renaming, recontextualization, or removal. This process will take time and should unfold in a careful, systematic, and transparent manner."

The report went on to recommend that this work should be institutionalized as an ongoing priority of the University through the constitution of a "Committee on Memorialization and Mission," ideally chaired by the President of the University to signal its importance. The report further recommended that the "committee should reflect racial, ethnic, and gender diversity and

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The work of the Task Force was directed primarily at consideration of the appropriateness of the Hébert name on F. Edward Hébert Hall. In that work, it developed suggestions that apply more broadly than in that particular naming issue.

As a result of its discussions, the task force requests that the Administration consider the following recommendations:

1. Recognize and acknowledge that renaming buildings is one small step/part of Tulane's commitment to creating a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive university.
2. Establish an institutional framework and formal process to carry out the ongoing work of reviewing, both prospectively and retrospectively, the names of buildings and parts thereof, programs, practices and other elements of the university that bear the names of individuals with the objective of insuring that such names are consistent with Tulane's values and mission.
3. Consider the practice of philanthropic naming, where donations are contingent upon the fulfillment of donor-recipient agreements, within the larger project of recontextualization.
4. Deepen the historical scope of its recontextualization project to reach beyond the institution's establishment in 1834 to consider the deep history of the spaces the University occupies now and has occupied in the past.
5. Seek purposeful and inclusive dialogue with students, staff, faculty, alumni and the community in addressing the key findings in the Task Force report and in the larger task of recontextualization.
6. Assure timeliness and transparency in all proceedings involving naming and renaming, being particularly sensitive to inquiries from and concerns expressed by students, faculty, staff or alumni concerning naming and contextualization issues.