A. The University Presidents have the authority to approve the naming of university facilities and programmatic units for individuals or organizations. Facilities shall include, but not be limited to, buildings, structures, thoroughfares, areas, classrooms, offices, or other spaces within facilities.

B. Naming of all facilities and programmatic units for individuals and organizations shall be accomplished in accordance with a written sponsorship agreement or the guidelines set forth below.

C. Each university shall develop an appropriate internal review mechanism in accordance with this policy. The University President has the authority to determine the conditions under which a facility or unit may be renamed or a previously assigned name may be rescinded.

D. The University Presidents shall exercise discretion in providing advance notice to the Board and the President of the Board of the names of the individuals and organizations who are considered for naming opportunities.

E. Appropriate recognition shall be provided to all naming recipients.

F. Guidelines for naming:

1. When naming a facility or programmatic unit for a person, family, or organization where there is no gift, the proposed honoree shall have achieved distinction in one or more of the following ways:
   
a. Serving the university in an academic or administrative capacity with high distinction, or
   
b. By contributing in other exceptional ways to the welfare and reputation of the university, to education, or to the community in general.

2. When naming a facility or programmatic unit for a person, family, or organization where there is a gift to the university, consideration shall be given to the following factors:
a. The significance of the gift to the likely realization or success of a facility project or programmatic unit, based on individual university guidelines and policies,

b. The urgency or need for the project or program, or continuing support for the program,

c. The standing of the individual, family, or entity in the community or profession,

d. The nature and duration of the relationship of the proposed honoree to the university.

3. Prior to approving the naming of a facility or programmatic unit for a person, family, or organization, the President shall have a reasonable assurance that:

   a. The proposed name will bring additional honor and distinction to the university,

   b. The recognition implied by the naming is appropriate for the behavior exhibited by the individual, family, or organization, and

   c. Any philanthropic commitments connected with the naming be realized.

Under ordinary circumstances, serving Regents, elected officials, and university employees are not eligible for a naming. The Board may make exceptions to this rule if other unusually meritorious reasons justify the naming.

Policy History

6/25/1999  Approved by the Board on second reading.

1/21/2000  Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.

2/12/2021  Policy revision approved by the Board on second reading.

Related Information