

STANFORD  
UNIVERSITY



MARC TESSIER-LAVIGNE  
*President*

January 11, 2018

Dear Paul,

Like many other communities, Stanford's campus includes buildings and sites named after historic figures, as well as individuals related specifically to the history of the university. Many of these names were chosen in the early days of the university, but some were chosen more recently. The university occasionally receives requests seeking the removal of names from buildings and sites. As we discussed, I have appointed an advisory committee to develop principles to guide decision-making relating to such requests. Thank you again for agreeing to chair this important committee.

The work to be done by the committee will have intergenerational impact long after our own time at Stanford. The development of principles to inform decision-making is critical to ensure consistent analysis and treatment of different naming issues in the future and to give members of our community a clear understanding of the basis for such decisions. The specific charge to the committee is to weigh all relevant considerations and develop criteria for making such decisions. The guiding principles will be most useful if they can be applied to all cases, rather than tailored to a specific type of request.

I greatly appreciate that you and the committee members have taken on this important responsibility. I look forward to receiving your recommendations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marc Tessier-Lavigne", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Marc Tessier-Lavigne

cc: Committee Members  
Laura Jones, Director, Heritage Services and University Archaeologist  
ASSU Co-Chairs:  
Vicki Niu  
Justice Tention-Palmer

Enclosures: List of Committee Members  
Examples of Reports and Policies

**Renaming Principles Committee  
Roster, Winter 2018**

Paul Brest, Chair  
Professor of Law, Emeritus

Laura Jones, Staff  
University Archaeologist and Director of Heritage Services

**Committee Members**

Albert Camarillo  
Leon Sloss Jr. Memorial Professor, Emeritus (History)

Pam Karlan  
Kenneth and Harle Montgomery Professor of Public Law

LaTonia Karr  
University Trustee

Krista Lawlor  
Professor of Philosophy

Jack Rakove  
Coe Professor of History and American Studies, Professor of Political Science and, by courtesy, of Law

Sean Reardon  
Professor of Poverty and Equality in Education and Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research

Howard Wolf  
Vice President for Alumni Affairs and President of the Stanford Alumni Association

ASSU Representatives (Pending)

## Examples of Reports and Policies

**Yale** (Please click on “Read Report”)

<https://president.yale.edu/advisory-groups/presidents-committees/committee-establish-principles-renaming-0>

**Princeton**

<https://www.princeton.edu/vpsec/trustees/Wilson-Committee-Report-Final.pdf>

**Michigan**

<https://record.umich.edu/articles/u-m-defines-principles-process-building-renaming-requests>

**Oregon State**

<http://leadership.oregonstate.edu/building-and-place-names/evaluation-process/renaming-criteria>

**Georgetown**

<https://slavery.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/GU-WGSMR-Report-Web.pdf>