

POLICY ON THE NAMING OF FACILITIES AND OTHER ASSETS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE

Adopted by the Board of Trustees on February 22, 2001
Last Revised on February 27, 2009

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish principles and guidelines governing the naming of facilities, academic components (such as schools, colleges, departments, and programs), and other significant assets of the University so that the names of these important assets are carefully deployed for the long term as assets of the University, its student, and the people of Tennessee.

Principles

Upon the recommendation of the President, the Board of Trustees shall approve the naming of facilities and other significant assets of the University. No current employee of the University, and no individual who has been an employee of the University within the previous three years, shall be eligible for consideration. In its sole discretion, the Board of Trustees may change any name adopted under this policy upon finding a significant change in circumstances.

Guidelines for Naming Facilities

The following more specific guidelines shall govern the naming of facilities for individuals, corporations or foundations:

1. It is appropriate to express the esteem and appreciation the University feels for an individual who has brought honor to the institution by personal accomplishments or for an individual, corporation, or foundation that has made a substantial monetary contribution to the University or for the benefit of the University.
2. In the absence of a substantial monetary contribution, nominations for an individual should reflect an association with either the history of the University or the nation or with the advancement of knowledge and learning that will remain memorable long beyond the lifetime of those who propose the name. Nominations whose claims are parochial, of recent date and untested by the passage of time, or based on personal enthusiasm should be avoided. Historical perspective should be exercised before proposing names. No current employee of the University, and no individual who has been an employee of the University

within the previous three years, shall be proposed for a naming in his or her honor.

3. The names of University facilities with specialized functions that are unlikely to change (such as athletic facilities, libraries, and medical buildings) should include terms descriptive of their functions.

4. Named buildings should be carried through the useful life of the building. If demolished, there is no obligation to rename the replacement building, although the Board of Trustees may choose to do so. When possible, the Chancellor/Vice President will inform a family member or other appropriate representative of the former namesake about a decision to demolish or change the use of a facility. If deemed appropriate in the sole discretion of the Chancellor/Vice President, the former namesake may be recognized with a plaque in the new or renovated facility.

5. When an appropriate portion of the funds for construction of a facility is given or secured by an individual, the President may recommend that the asset be named for that individual or other appropriate person he or she recommends if the naming is otherwise consistent with these guidelines. To be eligible for naming under this provision, the funds must be assured by outright gift or other irrevocable method of gift. If a donor fails to fulfill a pledge or other obligation upon which a naming is based, the Chancellor/Vice President for the campus/institute has authority to remove the individual's name from a building or other facility after providing notice to the President of the University and the Board of Trustees.

6. The President will consult with appropriate representatives of the faculty, the office of development and alumni affairs, and individual Board members, as appropriate, before making recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

7. The Chancellors and the Vice President for Agriculture are authorized to name rooms, laboratory spaces, and areas on the grounds of a campus/unit upon the recommendation of the appropriate academic officer or the office of development. The President will be notified of these namings as they occur. The Chancellors and the Vice President for Agriculture will provide an annual report to the Board of Trustees of the interior/grounds spaces named on the campuses/units.

Other Significant Assets

The guidelines outlined above for the naming of facilities shall be generally applicable to the naming of other significant assets. However, specific guidelines to govern the naming of colleges, schools, departments and programs shall be developed and submitted to the Board of Trustees for approval. The President shall recommend the naming of colleges, schools, departments and programs to the Board of Trustees for approval.

Exceptions

In its sole discretion, the Board of Trustees may make an exception to the principles and guidelines stated in this policy by duly adopted motion at any regular or called meeting of the Board.