

Building and Place Name Evaluation

Summary Report

November 27, 2017

Office of Institutional Diversity

Architectural Naming Committee



Oregon State
University

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I. Executive Summary

Oregon State University recognizes that the names of all OSU buildings and places speak to the university's 149-year history, as well as Oregon State's values and mission.

Over the past two years, the university has conducted a process to evaluate the histories of five buildings on OSU's Corvallis campus and the legacies of those buildings' namesakes. Those buildings are Arnold Dining Center, Avery Lodge, Benton Hall, Benton Annex and Gill Coliseum. This review occurred in response to questions and concerns offered over many years about whether these buildings' namesakes held or espoused exclusionary or discriminatory views during their lifetimes.

This executive summary serves as an introduction to the following detailed report on OSU's community-based and scholarly evaluation, which engaged hundreds of students and OSU employees, community stakeholders and alumni. This process included scholarly research on each of these buildings and their namesakes resulting in four reports and a 27-page qualitative analysis of the input received from community stakeholders.

As OSU President Ed Ray has said, "This process of evaluating the history of five buildings and their namesakes was not entirely about building names." It provided an opportunity to take stock of reconcile OSU's past and, in doing so, to improve going forward.

"By exploring our past, we will recognize that everything and everyone who preceded us, helped get us to who and where we are today," President Ray said in a Presidential Communication issued on Nov. 27. "This knowledge will guide us to improve. And in doing so, reconcile past injustices and provide for greater future inclusivity and success for all – regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation or identity, religion, nation of origin, disability or economic circumstances."

Based upon the facts gathered during this evaluation, as well as the recommendations and input provided, President Ray decided to retain the names of Gill Coliseum and Arnold Dining Center, and to instruct the university's Architectural Naming Committee to gather input from the community in winter 2018 and recommend:

- A new name for Avery Lodge;

- A new name for Benton Hall that appropriately recognizes the many contributions of Benton County community residents in the 1860's and 70's that supported the founding of this university; and
- A new name for Benton Annex that appropriately recognizes the building as home to the Women's Center – one of OSU's valued student cultural resource centers.

As well, President Ray directed the OSU Architectural Naming Committee to:

- Develop and share with the OSU community, public education information about the history of the five buildings and their namesakes reviewed;
- Lead the university in gathering and documenting the history of all OSU buildings and their namesakes; and
- Create website information, mobile app information and permanent history displays for all university buildings.

We thank the many OSU students, faculty, staff, stakeholders, alumni and community members who participated in and contributed to this evaluation process.

We also applaud the collaborative spirit that was exhibited during this process as many people of varied opinions came together to learn, explore and discuss facts that were uncovered and opinions that were shared. This type of discovery, discussion and participation is a fundamental part of a university community that is committed to inclusivity and improvement.

Charlene Alexander
Vice President
Chief Diversity Officer

Steve Clark
Vice President
University Relations & Marketing
Chair
Architectural Naming Committee

II. Building and Place Name Evaluation Timeline

The following key events comprise the building and place name evaluation process that took place between March 2016 and November 2017:

- Over a period of years prior to March 2016, several OSU community members, including students, faculty, alumni and members of the Corvallis community, raised concerns regarding alleged exclusionary views held by the namesakes of five buildings on OSU's Corvallis campus – Arnold Dining Center, Avery Lodge, Benton Hall and Annex and Gill Coliseum.
- In March 2016, responding to these concerns, OSU President Ed Ray directed the OSU [Architectural Naming Committee](#) and the Office of Institutional Diversity to form a

[Building and Place Name Advisory Committee](#) to assist the university in determining how to appropriately acknowledge concerns, and reconcile the legacy of Oregon State buildings or places named after individuals, who may have held or acted on racist and exclusionary beliefs. Dr. Joseph Orosco, professor of philosophy, and Larry Landis, university archivist chaired the advisory committee. Members of the advisory committee included faculty and students from a variety of academic departments and offices.

- The Architectural Naming Committee charged the Advisory Committee with the following tasks:
 - Research the history and context of how OSU has named and renamed university buildings and places;
 - Develop and recommend criteria to the Architectural Naming Committee for renaming of university buildings and places;
 - Develop and recommend criteria to inform and educate the OSU community about the context, meaning and impact of university building and place names; and
 - Recommend a role for the OSU community and stakeholders in the naming and renaming process.

- Between April 2016 and March 2017, the Building and Place Name Advisory Committee met, deliberated and drafted a [proposed review process and evaluation criteria](#). In March 2017, the [proposed review process](#) and [evaluation criteria](#) were approved by President Ray and adopted by the Architectural Naming Committee.

- In March 2017, students demonstrated on OSU's Corvallis campus calling attention to the namesakes of Arnold Dining Center, Avery Lodge, Benton Hall and Annex, and Gill Coliseum, expressing that these namesakes may have held or acted on racist or otherwise exclusionary views.

- Following these demonstrations, the Building and Place Name Evaluation Advisory Committee [held a community forum](#) to discuss the process and criteria to evaluate the names of Arnold Dining Center, Avery Lodge, Benton Hall and Annex, and Gill Coliseum.

- In April 2017, a [Building and Place Name Evaluation Leadership Committee](#) was formed to coordinate the evaluation of future building and place name evaluation requests, including the evaluation of Arnold Dining Center, Avery Lodge, Benton Hall and Annex, and Gill Coliseum.

- The Building and Place Name Evaluation Leadership Committee was charged with the following tasks:

- In collaboration with the working groups, guide the community engagement process when renaming requests are advanced to the full evaluation stage; and
 - Provide findings to the Architectural Naming Committee setting forth the working group's recommendations on whether to rename buildings and place names.
- In May 2017, a [Building and Place Name Evaluation Workgroup](#) was formed, chaired by Joseph Orosco and Larry Landis, and consisting of members of the Building and Place Name Evaluation Subcommittee and community stakeholders, was formed to plan and coordinate the community engagement and evaluation process for Arnold Dining Center, Avery Lodge, Benton Hall and Annex, and Gill Coliseum.
 - In August 2017, a timeline for evaluation of Arnold Dining Center, Avery Lodge, Benton Hall and Gill Coliseum was [announced](#). An [informational website](#) was launched, an [online feedback form](#) was created, answers to [frequently asked questions](#) were posted and [six community engagement sessions](#) were planned. Dialogue facilitators and note-takers for the community engagement sessions were recruited and trained by Office of Institutional Diversity staff.
 - In August 2017, a research team made up of scholars from OSU and the broader Oregon higher education community was assembled to conduct research and interviews, and produce [historical reports](#) regarding the namesakes and buildings under review.
 - Beginning in September 2017, [six community engagement sessions](#) were held on OSU's Corvallis campus to:
 - Provide information, enable dialogue and build community consensus on the importance of acting on OSU's mission and values through evaluating building names and places;
 - Review the history of these buildings and their namesakes in the context of OSU's history;
 - Transparently engage the community in this process by reviewing and discussing findings;
 - Enable OSU community members and stakeholders to openly, constructively and safely share their views on this subject;
 - Reconcile the building namesakes' views or actions with the contemporary values of the OSU community and the university's mission;
 - Gather community and stakeholder input on whether changing the name of the building; and
 - Share and explain the history of these buildings and places and their namesakes, regardless of any decision.
 - Community engagement sessions were held on [September 28](#) and [October 2](#) to establish a foundation for the evaluation process and orient community members to the

important issues under consideration. The next four community engagement sessions focused the buildings under consideration: [Arnold Dining Center](#) on October 11, [Avery Lodge](#) on October 16, [Benton Hall and Annex](#) on October 17, and [Gill Coliseum](#) on October 19.

- Following its review of the [historical reports](#), [input received](#) during the community engagement sessions, and from letters and e-mails received by the university, the Building and Place Name Evaluation Workgroup met on October 30 and November 7 to deliberate.
- On November 15, the Building and Place Name Evaluation Workgroup met with President Ray to deliver and discuss its findings. On November 17 and 21, following its review of the Building and Place Name Evaluation Workgroup findings, community input, and historical reports, the Architectural Naming Committee met to deliberate and form recommendations to deliver to President Ray.
- On November 27, 2017, President Ray [announced his findings and decisions](#) regarding the names of these five buildings in a Presidential Communication to the Oregon State community.

III. Evaluation Criteria

The building name review was framed by evaluation criteria developed by the Building and Place Name Evaluation Advisory Committee that was approved by President Ray and adopted by the Architectural Naming Committee. The rationale for these criteria is detailed in the [Recommendations to the Architectural Naming Committee for a Renaming Request Evaluation Process](#).

These evaluation criteria frame the evaluation of a building or place name around the following question: Should a building or place be renamed because the “context” of an individual’s life and legacy is inconsistent with OSU’s contemporary mission and values?

The criteria provide that the “context” of an individual’s life and legacy should be evaluated by:

- *Actions taken by an individual vs. viewpoints held by an individual* – typically, actions taken to advance racist or exclusionary viewpoints are considered more severe than holding racist or exclusionary viewpoints alone
- *The individual's public vs. private persona* – typically, actions taken or viewpoints held as part of an individual’s public persona are considered more severe than actions taken or viewpoints held as part of an individual’s private persona
- *The progression of an individual’s viewpoints and life as a whole* – typically, where an individual attempted to redress or rectify racist or exclusionary viewpoints or actions later in life, this is considered less severe than consistently acting on or holding racist or exclusionary viewpoints throughout life

- *Whether and how an individual's actions and viewpoints corresponded to OSU's mission and OSU's and society's values at the time* – OSU's mission and OSU's and society's values have changed over time. In some circumstances, an individual's racist or exclusionary views may have aligned or been supported by the institutional and societal values of the time. How these value systems interacted should be considered in evaluating the "context" of an individual's life.
- *How the current OSU community engages with the "context" of an individual's life* – the "context" of an individual's life will resonate differently with different community members. As an institution, we must be able to engage in difficult but constructive conversations around difference in opinion regarding the "context" of an individual.

Overall, consideration of "context" as part of the evaluation process acknowledges and engages with the complexity of an individual's life and the time in which the individual lived. The criteria counsel that reducing an individual's life to "bad" or "good" denies us the inquiry necessary to acquire understanding and engage in an informed evaluation.

By examining the "context" of an individual's life as a university community, the evaluation criteria aim to create opportunities for the Oregon State community to examine the viewpoints and actions of an individual, and values, practices and policies that may have enabled or supported racist or exclusionary views.

Importantly, the Building and Place Name Evaluation Advisory Committee recommended that regardless of a decision on any particular building or place name, an essential outcome is the development and placement of permanent public education to inform community members of the history of building and its namesake.

The evaluation of the "context" of a building namesake's life and legacy takes place through two central mechanisms: historical inquiry and community engagement.

IV. Historical Inquiry

The first and central component of the evaluation process was historical inquiry. Historical inquiry informs community engagement as the community must learn about the lives and legacies of building namesakes to determine how best to demonstrate OSU's values through the naming of its buildings and places.

Prior to this evaluation process, information and misinformation circulated about each of the namesakes and buildings under review. A fuller understanding of the namesakes' histories, and of the buildings bearing their names, was required to engage in an informed, deliberative evaluation process.

A research team made up of scholars from OSU and the broader Oregon higher education community was assembled to coordinate research with the OSU Special Collections and Archives Research Center (SCARC). The research team scholars were chosen for their extensive

professional credentials in history or related disciplines, their strong record of high quality research and publication, and their expertise on the eras in which the building namesakes lived or the controversies surrounding them.

Research team members included the following scholars:

- Dr. Stacey L. Smith (who assessed Joseph C. Avery and Avery Lodge and provided overall coordination of historical inquiry team). Stacey L. Smith earned her Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison in 2008 and is an associate professor of history at OSU. Her scholarship focuses on connecting the history of the U.S. Civil War and Reconstruction with the history of the North American West. She is the author of *Freedom's Frontier: California and the Struggle over Unfree Labor, Emancipation, and Reconstruction* (University of North Carolina Press, 2013), which won the inaugural David Montgomery Prize in U.S. labor history from the Organization of American Historians. She also has published articles in the *Pacific Historical Review*, the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*, and the *Journal of the Civil War Era*. She is currently working on a book on African American abolitionists and civil rights activists in the Pacific West.
- Dr. Thomas Bahde (who reviewed Benjamin Arnold and Arnold Dining Center). Thomas Bahde earned his Ph.D. in History from the University of Chicago, with an emphasis in the 19th-century United States and comparative slavery. He teaches in the Honors College at Oregon State University and is the author of *The Life and Death of Gus Reed: A Story of Race and Justice in Illinois During the Civil War and Reconstruction* (Ohio University Press, 2014).
- Dr. Steven Dow Beckham (who reviewed Thomas Hart Benton and Benton Hall and Annex). Stephen Dow Beckham is the Pamplin Professor of History, Emeritus, Lewis & Clark College. A graduate of the University of Oregon (B.A.) and UCLA (Ph.D.), Beckham taught for 42 years. His courses covered U.S. History, the American West, Native Americans, and seminars in research methods. He is a former "Oregon Professor of the Year" and recipient of the Asher Distinguished Teaching Award, American Historical Association. He is the author of numerous books, articles, monographs, expert witness reports, and has served as the writer of museums exhibits and master plans from the Library of Congress to the Hong Kong Museum of History.
- Dr. Marisa Chappell (who reviewed Amory T. "Slats" Gill and Gill Coliseum). Marisa Chappell earned her Ph.D. in history from Northwestern University in 2002 and is an associate professor of history at OSU. Her expertise is in post-1945 U.S. history with an emphasis on politics, social policy, and the political economy of race and gender. She has published *The War on Welfare: Family, Poverty, and Politics in Modern America* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010) and co-authored *Welfare in the United States: A History with Documents* (Routledge, 2009). She is currently working on a book about the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), which organized low- and moderate-income Americans in the last third of the twentieth century.

- Dr. Dwaine Plaza (who reviewed Amory T. “Slats” Gill and Gill Coliseum). Dwaine Plaza earned his Ph.D. in Sociology from York University, Canada, in 1996. He is a professor of sociology at OSU and associate dean of the OSU College of Liberal Arts. His research expertise is on migration in the English-speaking Caribbean, and he has also conducted and published extensive research on immigrant communities in Oregon and the history of race and athletics at Oregon State University. He has received research grants from the Canadian International Development Research Grant and the Centre of Excellence for Research on Immigrants and Settlement. He is also the winner of the Oregon Innovators in Education Award (2000) and the OSU College of Liberal Arts Bill Wilkins Teaching Award (1999).

The researchers adhered to rigorous research standards. Whenever possible, they documented their claims with primary sources, first-hand accounts of historical events, including newspaper articles, oral histories, census records, diaries, letters, and official institutional or government documents. They drew extensively on primary sources in the holdings of OSU SCARC. Archivists Larry Landis and Natalia Fernández, and graduate student assistant Michael Dicianna, provided invaluable help in locating these sources.

Dwaine Plaza, Jill Peters (a member of the University Relations and Marketing staff) and Marisa Chappell also reached out to longtime OSU and Corvallis community members to collect oral histories about Amory T. “Slats” Gill. Susan Hayes, a Corvallis community member, donated her time, expertise, and research materials to help the research team reconstruct the history of the Benton County citizens’ fundraising campaign to build Benton Hall.

The research team also relied on secondary sources, accounts written by historians. They avoided non-scholarly secondary sources such as anonymous or crowd-sourced websites, blogs, or non-scholarly history books without thorough citations. They depended, instead, on scholarly books with extensive citations. The researchers also tried to address apocryphal, misleading, or unsubstantiated information circulating about each namesake. Finally, the research team extensively documented their own research with detailed footnotes.

The individual [historical reports](#) were made available to the public prior to each community engagement session for review and consideration.

In all cases, the historical reports represent the most comprehensive historical information on the buildings and namesakes under consideration. The information gathered will be used to create ongoing public education regarding these buildings and their namesakes.

V. Community Engagement

The second central component of the evaluation process was engagement with the greater Oregon State community and stakeholders. Community members and stakeholders were asked

provide input into the process by thinking critically about the purpose of building and place names at OSU and the legacies of namesakes under consideration.

The goals for community engagement were to:

- Provide information, enable dialogue and build community consensus on the importance of acting on OSU's mission and values through evaluating building names and places;
- Review the history of these buildings and their namesakes in the context of OSU's history;
- Transparently engage the community by reviewing and discussing findings;
- Enable OSU community members and stakeholders to openly, constructively and safely share their views on this subject;
- Reconcile the building namesakes' views or actions with the contemporary values of the OSU community and the university's mission;
- Gather community and stakeholder input on whether to change the names of the buildings; and
- Share and explain the history of these buildings and places and their namesakes, regardless of any decision.

These goals were pursued by sharing information and soliciting feedback through an informational website, and holding community engagement sessions to apply the evaluation criteria through group dialogue.

a. Informational Website

An [informational website](#) was created to provide information, update the community on the development on the evaluation process, and collect input.

The website contained several key sections including: information to explain the evaluation process and criteria; a calendar of events and links to recorded community engagement sessions; pages for each of the building namesakes providing historical information and links to the historical reports; and answers to frequently asked questions.

The website also hosted a [feedback form](#) for visitors to submit their input on each of the buildings under review. Feedback was collected through this site until October 25. In addition, an email address (buildings@oregonstate.edu) was established to collect additional feedback and serve as a repository for community comment on the process.

The informational website was updated throughout the evaluation process and will serve as record of this process.

b. Community Engagement Sessions

Community input was gathered through a series of community engagement sessions. These meetings were organized in two stages.

The first stage of community engagement sessions, held on [September 28](#) and [October 2](#), created and facilitated an opportunity for discussing why the building and place name evaluation process was important and its purpose to build community as an extension of the university's values. This initial step was essential to frame Oregon State's process within broader community discussions about equity and reconciliation.

The second stage of community engagement sessions sought discussion and input on each of the five buildings under review: [Arnold Dining Center](#) on October 11, [Avery Lodge](#) on October 16, [Benton Hall and Annex](#) on October 17, and [Gill Coliseum](#) on October 19. Prior to these meetings, the individual [historical reports](#) were made available to the public for review.

These meetings required skilled facilitation. Faculty and student facilitators and note-takers were recruited and trained to play an important role in creating a space where generative, respectful dialogue could occur. At each community engagement session, attendees sat at an assigned table with a trained facilitator and note-taker. Following an informational presentation regarding the evaluation process and historical information gleaned from the historical reports, attendees engaged in dialogue, using prompts to guide attendees through discussion and application of the building and place name evaluation criteria. Note-takers captured input from each table.

Each community engagement session was live-streamed, recorded and posted on the informational website.

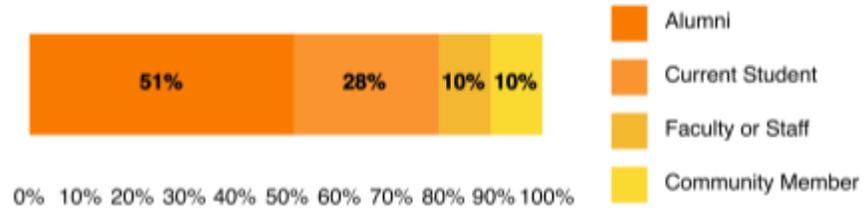
c. Community Engagement Summary

Hundreds of OSU students, faculty, and staff, community stakeholders and alumni participated in person in the evaluation process. Hundreds more contributed their thoughts by e-mail, in phone calls, letters, and through the online comment form.

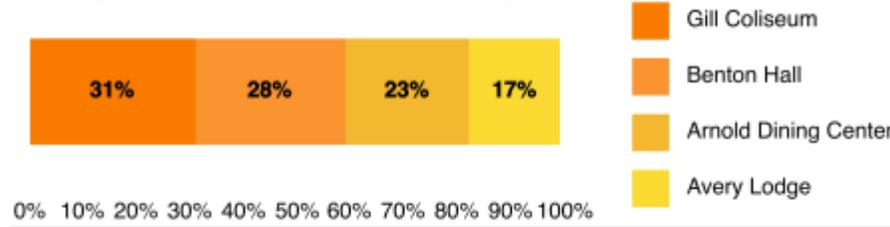
Following the community engagement sessions, Dr. Allison Davis White-Eyes, director of community relations in the Office of Institutional Diversity, assisted by Tammy Lockwood and graduate student Alma Torres, collected all community input from the community engagement sessions and the online comment form to conduct a qualitative analysis of the data. A [summary report](#) of their findings was posted on the informational website.

Not including dialogue facilitators or note-takers, a total of 343 individuals participated in the community engagement process. Sixty-three individuals shared their opinions regarding one or more of the buildings under review online, and a total of eighty-six responses were recorded. At least one-half (51%) of the online responses were alumni and most of the individuals shared opinions regarding Gill Coliseum (31%). The building that was commented on least often was Avery Lodge (17%).

Online feedback distribution by population:



Online feedback distribution by building:



The community engagement workshops ranged from thirty-one to seventy participants. Roughly fifty people attended the first two workshops. The Gill Coliseum community engagement workshop had the highest attendance, seventy people. The sample of community engagement workshop participants was comprised of these primary relationships to OSU:

	Sept. 28	Oct. 2	Gill Coliseum	Benton Hall	Arnold Dining	Avery Lodge
Alumni	1	4	22	2	4	6
Current Student Includes graduate and transfer students	31	18	29	15	24	12
Faculty or Staff	13	26	6	7	9	9
Community members (includes Family)	6	0	13	7	6	10
TOTAL	51	48	70	31	43	37

The full qualitative analysis report, in addition to the raw community input data, was made available to the Building and Place Name Evaluation Workgroup, Architectural Naming Committee and President Ray for review. The report was also [published](#) on the informational website.

VI. Deliberation by Building and Place Name Workgroup and Architectural Naming Committee

The Building and Place Name Deliberation Workgroup and Architectural Naming Committee deliberated following completion of the community engagement sessions. To prepare for deliberation, both groups reviewed the historical reports, recordings of the community engagement sessions, the informational presentations provided at the community engagement sessions, and community input collected.

The Building and Place Name Evaluation Workgroup deliberated twice, on October 30 to discuss Arnold Dining Center and Benton Hall and Annex, and on November 7 to discuss Avery Lodge and Gill Coliseum. On November 15, the Building and Place Name Evaluation Workgroup met with President Ray to discuss its findings and answer questions.

The Architectural Naming Committee deliberated on November 17 and 21 prior to delivering its recommendations to President Ray.

VII. Decision

On November 27, President Ray [communicated his decision](#) regarding the building names to the Oregon State community.

President Ray announced that the names of Gill Coliseum and Arnold Dining Center would be retained, and that he would instruct the Architectural Naming Committee to gather input from the community in winter 2018 and recommend to him:

- A new name for Avery Lodge;
- A new name for Benton Hall that appropriately recognizes the many contributions of Benton County community residents to create the college in the 1860's and 70's and particularly the fundraising in the 1885-87 period to build what is now Benton Hall; and
- A new name for Benton Annex that appropriately recognizes the building as home to the Women's Center – one of OSU's valued student cultural resource centers.

Additionally, President Ray called upon the Architectural Naming Committee beginning in winter 2018 to:

- Undertake a process that engages the overall Oregon State University community to consider and to recommend to him new names for these three buildings;
- Develop and share with the OSU public education information about the history of the five buildings and their namesakes reviewed;
- Lead the university in gathering the history of all OSU buildings and their namesakes; and
- Create website information, mobile app information and permanent history displays for all university buildings.