

MEMORANDUM

TO: MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FROM: PATRICK GALLAGHER, CHANCELLOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDATION REGARDING NAMING FOR PARRAN HALL

This memorandum serves to both transmit for your consideration a report from the Review Committee on Parran Hall that was completed under the direction of the Office of Diversity and Inclusion (ODI) and to convey my recommendation that the Board of Trustees (Board) remove Dr. Thomas Parran Jr.'s name from the University property at 130 De Soto Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, based on my consideration of that report.

Background

The University has instituted guidelines to govern the review of complaints or issues that impact the greater community and are not subject to other University policies and procedures. These guidelines set forth a transparent process, which engages stakeholders, collects the broadest possible input, and performs a careful analysis of the facts to support any recommendations. To implement this process, an ODI Review Committee (ODIRC) is created, chaired by the Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion, with members appointed by the Senior Vice Chancellor for Engagement (SVC-E) to represent the broad interests of the University community. These members are selected based on expertise in relevant areas or to serve as a representative from a specific department. Additionally, student, staff, and faculty representatives are nominated by Senate Council. That committee is charged with making a recommendation.

Concerns that directly impact the University's core mission to create an inclusive, diverse and equitable environment are subject to this process, and the concern regarding Parran Hall's name was the first matter to undergo this review. This concern was raised in a January 8, 2018 letter from Dr. Donald Burke, Dean of the Graduate School of Public Health, which questioned whether the name "Parran Hall" is consistent with the University's mission in light of recent revelations regarding Dr. Parran's role in venereal disease studies conducted by the U.S. Public Health Service as part of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study in 1932 and in Guatemala from 1946 to 1948 (See Attachment \A). The extent Dr. Parran's involvement in these studies was made publicly known in 2017 and 2010, respectively. ODI determined that this complaint raised an institutional concern and Dr. Kathy Humphrey, SVC-E, appointed a committee (ODIRC), charging it with reviewing Dean Burke's concern and making a recommendation to me regarding the building name (the charge did not include providing input on any new name, if applicable).

ODIRC's Review

Throughout its review, ODIRC focused on adhering to the University's guidelines, soliciting and reviewing broad input from the University community generally, and from the research community specifically. This included standing up a webpage that described the Parran Hall concern and solicited input from the community. ODIRC received and reviewed 64 submissions in response to this solicitation. Additionally, ODIRC reviewed and considered a petition with

more than 1,300 signatures, received by the Office of the Chancellor, urging the University to change the building name.

ODIRC also engaged in due diligence in its own research, including consultation with subject matter experts. This effort consisted of attending a symposium on Dr. Parran's career, interviewing Dean Burke, reviewing the "Guide to Democratic Deliberation of Public Health Ethics Professionals" and studying numerous other authorities describing Dr. Parran's work.

ODIRC completed its review and issued its Report and Recommendations to me on June 11, 2018 (See Attachment B). As explained in that Report, the committee undertook a careful deliberation, engaging in full, thoughtful, and open discussions that considered documentation and evidence as well as moral and ethical considerations. Ultimately, the committee unanimously agreed to recommend that Dr. Parran's name be removed in light of the recent revelations regarding his role in the studies mentioned above, the details of which existed but were unknown at the time the Board named the building Parran Hall in 1969.

Recommendation

Based on my review of ODIRC's Report, and for the reasons outlined below, I recommend that the Board of Trustees revoke its 1969 decision to name the University of Pittsburgh property at 130 De Soto Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15261, Parran Hall.

My recommendation is based on both a consideration of ODIRC's review process as well as the factual basis for revoking the naming decision. With respect to the process, a key aspect of the University's guidelines is to ensure that when reviewing the Board's past decisions on sensitive and controversial issues, such as facility naming, we use a thoughtful and inclusive process that engages internal and external stakeholders, collects the broadest possible input, and performs a careful analysis of the facts to support any recommendations. I reviewed the process used by ODIRC to ensure that it met this standard and that it was complete, impartial, and appropriately deliberative with the available information.

With respect to the factual basis for revoking the decision, I determined that there was a clear basis for reversal. To name a permanent University asset, such as a building, for a person on an honorific basis is intended to be one of the highest, most visible and permanent recognitions the University can bestow. At issue in this case is that certain information was unavailable at the time of the Board's original decision due to the secret nature of the experiments in question. This information, I believe, would have impacted the Board's consideration of the proposal to name the building. In my view, there is a reasonable likelihood that if the Board knew of Dr. Parran's involvement in the two studies at issue here, which took place before he was Dean, one could easily conclude that the decision to permanently honor Dr. Parran would not have taken place. Both studies conducted human trials on vulnerable populations without informed consent. These actions are fundamentally at odds with the University's core values. As the extent of Dr. Parran's role in these studies has come to light after the Board's decision to name the property after him in 1969, it is appropriate to revoke this naming decision and to remove any perception of celebrating a name associated with these unfortunate human trials.