

UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS	IDENTIFICATION AR II-1.1-6	PAGE 1
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POLICY STATEMENT ON NAMING UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

Naming new buildings and changing the names of existing structures of the University of Kentucky, whether on the main campus or elsewhere, is of interest to the entire University community. Choosing a truly appropriate name - one that accounts for present and possible future uses of the building, that reflects functions performed and interests served by so simple a thing as a name - is no easy task. There is a need to establish workable methods and standards for appropriately naming University buildings which will serve the following ends:

Aid the President and the Board of Trustees in selecting suitable names;

Encourage participation in the naming process by the University community, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees, and friends; and

Make more generally understood the considerations involved in suitably naming University buildings.

I. Guidelines

A. All University buildings, such as the Medical Center, dormitories, and athletic facilities which are dedicated to highly specialized uses that prevent their conversion to other functions, shall carry as part of their names terms which describe their uses, whatever other names may be given them. Functionally descriptive names attached to other types of buildings do not, however, prevent their later use for different purposes and with different names.

Functionally descriptive names for general purpose office-classroom and administrative buildings are generally to be discouraged since future changes in occupancy would require costly and time-consuming changes on each occasion.

B. When some other name seems more appropriate than a functionally descriptive one, the nominations should demonstrate that the remarkable associations of that name either with the history of the University or the nation or with the advancement of knowledge and learning guarantee that it 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 are to be avoided. Considerable historical perspective should be exercised before proposing names. Nominations of persons on active service with the University, especially where that service is to be performed in a building so named, is at best in questionable taste and should not be considered except in the most extraordinary cases.

Proposing the names of living persons no longer on active service with the University also should be approached as most exceptional cases.

C. Priorities governing the selection of names:

1. All living units, athletic and recreational structures and areas, and specialized-function structures should carry in their names terms describing their uses, such as House, Village, Field, or Coliseum, whatever other names may be given them.

Such structures or areas ought to be given names that carry some general significance for the University as a whole, as Memorial Coliseum now does. If personal names are to be considered, first priority ought to attach to those whose interest in the University has been expressed in some unusually significant manner, or to those whose names permanently and generally symbolize to a unique degree some important aspect of University life or values.

2. Service structures should carry only functionally descriptive names.

3. Community colleges and other off-campus structures should ordinarily be given names which describe their geographical location.

4. General administrative and multipurpose office and classroom buildings serving several disciplines or offices may properly carry names of historical significance to the University as a whole, as distinct from those names of interest only to a particular function or use.

5. Buildings devoted to the interests of a single administrative or academic unit may carry names associated historically with that field of study or endeavor or names of those whose interests in that field and in the University merit the honor.

6. It is appropriate to express the esteem and appreciation the University feels for one who has brought honor to the institution by personal accomplishments, or who has given significantly of personal time and money, by giving the person's name to a University structure or area. Wherever possible, however, the person's name should grace a structure that houses some activity appropriate to that person's field of interest or endeavor.

II. Procedures

A. The duty of surveying and recommending proposed names to the President and the Board of Trustees should be lodged in an advisory committee appointed by the President.

1. All nominations should be submitted to the chairperson of this committee, together with a statement indicating the suitability of the proposed name in accordance with the guidelines. (Refer to AR III-1.1-1 for the committee's charge.)

2. All nominations should conform to these procedures and guidelines. If a peculiarly appropriate name does not so conform, the reasons for setting aside the usual criteria should accompany the nomination.

3. All nominations shall be held in the strictest confidence by all interested parties.

B. It is not possible to establish hard and fast rules to govern every naming situation that may arise. An orderly approach, however, is indicated.

1. All new buildings should be named, wherever practicable, by the time preliminary architect's drawings are approved. Barring this, their names and the name changes of existing buildings should be determined as far as possible ahead of occupancy.

2. When no final determination of the name of a new building seems appropriate at the time of construction, it shall be given a functionally descriptive name until such time as circumstances warrant a permanent name.

3. The names of certain existing buildings which reflect participation in underwriting their construction by some donor, subscription, or other special circumstance, and whose original use was designed for particular occupants, may come in question when occupancy is changed. In such cases, special consideration should be given to the destination of its original name, and consultations between all interested parties should precede recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

4. The names of rooms in, or of spaces within or adjoining, buildings whose use will be confined to their occupants shall be left to the discretion of those administering the space during their term of occupancy, subject only to the approval of the committee and the President and to the provisions of the guidelines.