

**Buffalo State
State University of New York
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
July 31, 2020- 10 :00 AM
ZOOM MEETING Cleveland Hall 518
MINUTES**

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Linda Dobmeier; Mr. Todd Brason; Ms. Melissa Brinson; Allen “Pete” Grum; Mr. Mylous Hairston; Mr. Charles Naughton; Mrs. Cindy Odom; Mr. Robert Zak

FACULTY & STAFF PRESENT:

President Katherine Conway-Turner; Jackie Malcolm; Vice President for Institutional Advancement, Jim Finnerty; Chief of Staff and Secretary to the College Council, Crystal J. Rodriguez; College Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, Dan DiLandro; Staff Assistant, Melissa Slisz.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Dobmeier called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. Ms. Dobmeier welcomed everyone to the meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

Last week, President Conway-Turner brought to Linda Dobmeier’s attention the revelation that in 1980, one of our residence halls was named after Peter Buell Porter, a local figure who was a slave owner. Ms. Dobmeier asked the President to discuss her findings and plans further.

Mr. Dan Dilandro reported (see attached).

Mr. Robert Zak, Chair of the Naming of Building and Grounds said this Committee met Wednesday, July 29th and all members were present;

- Information was given to us regarding Peter Buell Porter;
- Dan Dilandro, College Archivist and Special Collections Librarian, presented his findings in confirming that the Peter Buell Porter, for which Porter Hall is named was, in fact, a slave owner;
- Documents were shared with the committee and will be shared with the full council today via email, specifically minutes from a Buffalo Town Meeting where Peter Buell Porter’s ownership of slaves was discussed;

After reviewing this documentation, the Naming of Buildings and Grounds Committee decided **unanimously** to recommend to the full council, that the name be removed immediately and replaced, temporarily, with Bengal Hall, until such time as the President can develop a process to permanently rename the building.

Ms. Dobmeier called for a motion to remove “porter” name from residence hall and a motion to temporarily rename building Bengal Hall. Mr. Grum moved that the naming changes be approved; the motion was seconded by Mr. Zak The motion carried by unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Dobmeier called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Brinson moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Brason seconded the motion. The motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Crystal J. Rodriguez, Esq., LL.M.

Secretary to the Council