Along with the naming of buildings and other physical facilities, the Board of Trustees considers the naming of major academic units and programs within the University to be among the highest honors that the University can bestow. In order to preserve the integrity of this significant honor, it is the Board of Trustees’ policy that the naming of a department, school, college, or program within the University (each, an “Academic Unit”) be reserved for the recognition of exceptional contributions to the University, such as meritorious service, significant personal and/or professional contributions to the University, or substantial financial commitments. In the case of naming honors bestowed on the basis of financial commitments that are designated to support academic programs, instruction, research, and outreach initiatives relating to a specific Academic Unit (including related to the physical facilities, equipment, and staff of a particular Academic Unit), preference will generally be in favor of granting naming honors within the specific Academic Unit for which such gift is designated; provided, however, that nothing shall require that naming rights to be limited to any such Academic Unit.

SUBMISSION OF NAMING REQUESTS

Requests for the naming of any Academic Unit shall (a) first be submitted to the appropriate head(s), dean(s), and director(s) (or their functional equivalents) of each impacted Academic Unit for their consideration and approval, (b) upon approval by the foregoing, to the Provost, the Executive Vice President of the University (the “Executive Vice President”), and the Senior Vice President for Advancement (the “Vice President for Advancement”) for further consideration and approval, (c) upon approval by the foregoing, to the University President for further consideration, and (d) upon approval by the foregoing, to the President Pro Tempore for further consideration and recommendation to the full Board of Trustees.

Upon concurrence by the President Pro Tempore that a request for the naming of an Academic Unit made in accordance with this policy merits further consideration by the full Board of Trustees, the President Pro Tempore shall forward a copy of the naming request, together with copies of any other relevant information and documentation, to each other member of the Board of Trustees. Naming requests may also be made directly by any member of the Board of Trustees by providing notice to each of the other members of the Board of Trustees.

APPROVAL OF NAMING REQUESTS

Upon the receipt of a naming request made in accordance with the preceding paragraph of this policy, the naming proposal shall be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Board of Trustees for which the agenda has not yet been fixed. Approval by the Board of Trustees of any naming request shall be by written ballot in an open session of the Board of Trustees and shall require the positive vote of not less than seventy-five percent (75%) of the members of the Board of Trustees entitled to vote on such matter who are present at the meeting at which such vote is held. For the avoidance of doubt, all authority regarding the naming of any Academic Unit shall be held exclusively by the Board of Trustees and may not be delegated to any other person, body, department, or committee.

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REVISED: September 16, 2005
REVISED: June 19, 2009
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REVISED: April 16, 2021