



BOARD OF REGENTS

**SUMMARY OF ITEM FOR ACTION,
INFORMATION OR DISCUSSION**

TOPIC: UMCP Naming Request

COMMITTEE: Committee of the Whole

DATE OF COMMITTEE MEETING: December 11, 2015

SUMMARY: Following a campus-wide discussion concerning the removal of the Byrd name from the University of Maryland's stadium, and in response to findings of a workgroup formed to examine the issue, President Loh is requesting that "Byrd Stadium" be changed to "Maryland Stadium." The rationale for this request is that this change allows the university to respect and honor its current diversity and values. If this request is approved, the university will memorialize President "Curley" Byrd's full legacy with a permanent exhibition in one of the university's main libraries.

The university also plans to impose a moratorium on any other honorific renaming, and begin an effort "to move from symbolic changes to institutional improvements with respect to racial diversity and inclusion as well as intellectual freedom and academic excellence."

ALTERNATIVE(S):

FISCAL IMPACT: Cost of removal of the Byrd name and installation of the Maryland name to the stadium and associated signage.

CHANCELLOR'S RECOMMENDATION: The Chancellor recommends supporting President Wallace Loh's request.

COMMITTEE ACTION:

DATE: 12.11.15

BOARD ACTION:

DATE:

SUBMITTED BY: Janice Doyle, Secretary to the Board, 301-445-1906; jdoyle@usmd.edu



Main Administration Building
College Park, Maryland 20742
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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

December 7, 2015

USM Chancellor Robert Caret
cc: USM Board of Regents

Dear Chancellor Caret:

I respectfully submit to you and the Board of regents the following regarding Byrd Stadium:

Recommendation for board action:

I recommend that “Byrd Stadium” be changed to “Maryland Stadium.”

Planned follow-up actions by UMCP if this recommendation is approved:

- Memorialize President Byrd in the library: UMCP will identify a suitable and visible location inside one of our main University libraries and install a permanent exhibit recognizing the enormous contributions of Harry Clifton “Curley” Byrd during his presidency (1936 – 1954) and in the 25 preceding years as teacher, football coach, and university administrator. As an institution of learning, we are duty-bound to memorialize his complete legacy.
- Announce a moratorium on any other honorific renaming: There will be a five-year moratorium on any honorific renaming of other buildings that recognize historical figures.
- Move from symbolic change to institutional improvements: True change is not realized by name change alone. This controversy is symptomatic of deeper divides on campus and in the nation at large. Early next semester, UMCP will launch a campus-wide “Maryland Dialogues on Diversity and Community” to help bridge the differences and to align better our practices and policies with our 21st century moral and academic vision.

DUE DILIGENCE

Over the summer, I talked informally with a wide range of stakeholders—people on campus, alumni, public officials, colleagues at peer universities—seeking their views and wisdom on this matter. Opinions are strong and divided. Some defy easy categorization.

This fall, I convened a 20-member workgroup of faculty, students, staff, administrators (including Deans), and other campus representatives (from the University Senate, student government, Intercollegiate Athletics, etc.) and alumni to study the subject. The workgroup was diverse and balanced. It included those who want to keep the name, those who want to change it, and those who are neutral.

I asked the workgroup not to make a recommendation. I did not want its members caught in the crossfire of the controversy. Instead, I charged the workgroup to undertake an assessment of the issues. The results are two very thoughtful reports: “*Arguments For and Against Changing the Stadium Name and Alternative*

They help us recognize truths about our past and affirm the values by which we live today. The Byrd name has acquired that power.

There have been three attempts by students over the past 25 years to change the stadium's name. The first two occurred in periods of heightened national consciousness about race relations.

The latest attempt began last spring. It coincided with the public release of a racist, sexist, and misogynist email that a student had sent to a handful of his friends over a year earlier. After an investigation and given the factual circumstances, the University concluded that this email—though appallingly offensive—was protected under the First Amendment. Meanwhile, urban unrest and the Black Lives Matter movement followed the shootings in Ferguson, Charleston, Baltimore, and elsewhere.

The Student Government Association subsequently endorsed a resolution in support of this call to change the stadium's name. The vote was 13 in favor, two opposed, with two abstentions.

For some African-Americans and other people of color, the name "Byrd Stadium" conveys a racial message hidden in plain sight. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. explained the cutting power of exclusion. In a speech on a college campus, he said: *"If one says that I am not good enough ... to go to school with him merely because of my race, he is saying, consciously or unconsciously, that I do not deserve to exist."*

Frederick Douglass knew the struggle in an earlier era. He said he wanted to be *"treated not as a color, but as a man."* I heard similar expressions of hurt and anger throughout this naming controversy. These feelings are raw and real.

When President Byrd served in office in the first half of the last century, the University of Maryland was monochromatic. In 2015, the UMD freshman class is the most academically talented and the most racially diverse in our history—42 percent minority, including 25 percent African-American and Hispanic. Yet, we know that these dramatic changes have not eliminated racial tension. Today's progress cannot fully undo memories of yesterday's wrongs.

Consider, too, the strong symbolic power of a stadium. Athletics is the "front porch" of a university. It is not the most important part of the educational house, but it is the most visible. Some 50,000 people gather there on Saturday afternoons in the fall. A name on the front porch carries greater weight than any other campus location. This explains in part why the stadium name elicits such intensity.

Embracing History on Campus

For several years, UMCP worked to develop symbols on campus that tell our full story. Distinguished University Professor of History Ira Berlin and faculty colleagues envisioned and labored for five years to create a memorial to the great orator and abolitionist Frederick Douglass, a native son of Maryland.

Recently, we dedicated Douglass Square, with a towering figure of the man. Etched in stone and metal are his soaring words on racial justice and the transformative power of education. Then, some 200 students gathered around the statue for a peaceful demonstration in solidarity with protesters in Missouri and elsewhere. Through them, this symbol became a living presence on campus.

We also added the name of Parren J. Mitchell to the campus' Art-Sociology Building. He was denied admission on account of his race. Thurgood Marshall sued successfully, resulting in Mr. Mitchell becoming

the first African-American permitted to study on campus and receive a degree in sociology. He later became Maryland's first African-American elected to Congress. His life devoted to civil rights and economic opportunity will inspire new generations to careers in public service.

The planned memorial to President Byrd in the library will complement this ring of history on our campus. These symbols teach us about our University's past and present and impart lessons for the future.

Moving Forward

Our national motto engraved on our coins is *E Pluribus Unum*, one formed from many. The Founders of our Republic got it right. We are a diverse people, but we are united by common values and ideals. We are of many different backgrounds but ultimately we are one. What holds us together is a commitment to core values that transcend our differences. They are the moral glue that binds our pluralistic society. They are the values of UMCP today.

Continuing the Byrd Stadium name divides us at a time when we need unity more than ever. We must accept the full truth of our past and the possibilities of our future.

The proposed actions—changing the stadium's name; permanently memorializing President Byrd's accomplishments and full legacy in a University library; creating a campus climate that supports the cultural and intellectual diversity essential to learning and growth—illustrate the ideal and the challenge now roiling American campuses everywhere: to reconcile racial justice and free expression.

This clash of competing ideas and values does not undermine an institution of learning. It strengthens it. Because the mission of a university is the pursuit of truth and knowledge, it is an indispensable place in society where the struggle for progress can take place. This struggle contributes to our nation's progress towards a more perfect union.

Early next semester, I will announce a campus-wide "Maryland Dialogues on Diversity and Community." It will be a series of conversations and educational programs that engage our students, faculty, and staff in all of our schools and colleges. It is intended to move us beyond symbolic changes to institutional improvements. It is to better understand and better bridge the differences—cultural, racial, intellectual, religious, etc.—that divide our community and our nation at large. It is to reaffirm the defining values of the University of Maryland regarding racial diversity and inclusion as well as academic freedom and academic excellence. And, it is to plan for actions that will better align our institutional practices and policies with our moral and academic vision.

UMCP honors history, respects the power of symbols, and assures free and robust exchange of views in the marketplace of ideas. We will preserve and protect these bedrock values.

Thank you for considering the recommendation.

Sincerely,



Wallace D. Loh
President, University of Maryland

**ARGUMENTS FOR AND AGAINST CHANGING THE STADIUM NAME
and
ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERATIONS**

REPORT *of the* BYRD STADIUM NAMING WORK GROUP
4 December 2015

Background and Charge

Over the last year, students at the University of Maryland, College Park have advocated that the President and the Board of Regents consider whether the football stadium should continue to bear the name of former President Harry C. “Curley” Byrd; these requests were communicated through a Student Senate vote as well as through individual student requests and communications. On September 28, 2015 President Loh charged the work group, made up of faculty, administrators, students, trustees and alumni with providing a report by December 11, 2015 addressing the following topics:

- Reasons/Information on why the name should be changed
- Reasons/Information on why the name should not be changed
- A list of alternatives to changing the name.

President Loh specifically asked that the report NOT make a recommendation on the name change. The report will be used to inform his decision and subsequent recommendation to the University System of Maryland Board of Regents.

The committee sought first to educate itself on the matter by organizing into a series of subgroups with the following tasks:

- Examine the history of Harry C. “Curley” Byrd’s presidency, with specific attention to his position and actions on racial segregation in higher education;
- Examine the societal context – specifically how other institutions of higher education are addressing requests to rename buildings, due to a history of racial discrimination associated with those individuals (a context which changed rapidly during the course of committee deliberations);
- Consider whether, how, and when the committee might engage the community in a broader discussion of these issues; and
- Examine the UMD and University System of Maryland building naming policies.

Once information from each of these subgroups was reported and considered by the full work group, the larger committee began the work of responding directly to the charge. All of the work group meetings were announced on the University website and open to the public. Between one and four community members were present at each meeting and time was allotted for public response/comment at the end of each meeting. With the exception of the draft of this final report, documents distributed to the committee were made available to observers. Minutes of the meeting were shared upon request.

The committee report includes the discussion below and a second document entitled: **President Harry Clifton “Curley” Byrd, Biographical Notes**. These two documents are the result of the Committee’s effort to consider carefully and judiciously the reasons for and against removing President Byrd’s name from the stadium by identifying the relevant facts and perspectives as well as presenting alternative actions that might be considered.

The societal context in which the committee has worked has been volatile, characterized by three important developments: (1) Student activism on college campuses confronting discrimination—past and present—gained national attention initially at the University of Missouri, Yale University, and Claremont McKenna College and rapidly spread to many other campuses across the nation; (2) A number of high-profile incidents of racial violence beginning in Ferguson, Missouri and spreading to other cities including Charleston, South Carolina became part of a growing national movement entitled Black Lives Matter, which called attention to contemporary acts of racial discrimination across the country and as close as Baltimore; (3) The actions of other universities in response to demands to rename buildings or remove statuary. These developments heightened the sense of timeliness and national significance of the committee’s deliberations.

The question of whether to remove the name of President Byrd from the Stadium and what other actions might be taken involves people, histories, and policies that are specific to the University of Maryland (UMD). However, it is not ours alone. It is embedded in a larger statewide and national discussion of how to create a more inclusive and more equitable educational system for people of all walks of life.

Introduction

Most accounts of Harry C. Byrd’s long presidency—1935-to 1954—emphasize the strong leadership he provided for the expansion of the University of Maryland at College Park. The documents detail the transformation of the University of Maryland from an undistinguished agricultural college to something resembling a modern university. President Byrd oversaw a major expansion of the university and the campus as a whole grew rapidly, particularly over the course and immediate aftermath of World War II. Student enrollment, thanks in part to the GI Bill, grew from 3,400 to 16,000; the budget increased from approximately \$3 million to \$20 million; and he oversaw the construction of over 60 buildings, including the Administration Building, Memorial Chapel and Reckord Armory. President Byrd is credited in the official university’s history for dynamic and powerful leadership during this period of significant growth and expansion of the University.

The official narratives, however, have been silent about President Byrd’s role in maintaining racial segregation and systematic exclusion of black students and faculty from the University of Maryland College Park. Through such silences the university’s history has been rendered partial and biased, distorted by erasures that important segments of the state’s citizens and the UMD community, including those who have faced racism and exclusion, find deeply injurious. In recent months, demands to acknowledge such hidden and painful elements in the history of institutions of higher learning have extended well beyond the UMD campus. Universities all over the country are currently facing demands challenging their leaders to better understand the concerns and better protect the rights of underrepresented minorities. Included in these demands

are removals of names from buildings, statuary and other representations of individuals who were advocates and implementers of policies that enforced racial segregation. In a short span of time, determining how to respond to such demands has become a key issue in higher education. In such a context, the university's response to the removal of President Byrd's name from the football stadium is likely to receive national attention.

As a result, the UMD campus community has been given both a challenge and an opportunity. The challenge is to carefully consider arguments for and against removing President Byrd's name from the stadium, perhaps replacing it with another. Addressing this issue also provides an opportunity to educate the campus and the larger community about the university's history through restoring what has been erased from it—the ways in which the campus was shaped by systematic exclusion, first by the presence of slavery and then by racial segregation. By openly acknowledging the pervasiveness of racist attitudes and policies, both implicit and explicit that historically excluded black people, the campus can better comprehend the legacy that prevented the creation of a diverse learning environment in higher education, here and elsewhere. Such knowledge and understanding will enhance efforts to promote a positive campus climate in the present, placing the campus in a stronger position to achieve contemporary goals of diversity and inclusion in the future.

Arguments For Removing the Name of Byrd Stadium

Byrd's deeds and actions (See Biographical Notes)

1. President Harry C. "Curley" Byrd maintained and actively promoted segregation at the University of Maryland, resisting legal efforts by black people to gain admission into the university, labeling such efforts as the product of outside agitation, and advocating for the establishment of separate educational facilities for different races (such as for Engineering and Sociology). More broadly, in his effort to promote the development of the Princess Anne campus as an alternative for African-Americans, he continued the segregated learning environment at the College Park campus. His writings and speeches justified segregation by drawing on racist stereotypes regarding the potential dangers of integration. Archival documents indicate that Byrd did not restrict his efforts to maintaining segregation at the University of Maryland, College Park, but coordinated with other university presidents across the South to resist challenges to educational segregation.
2. President Byrd's advocacy of segregation extended beyond his term of office at the University of Maryland. As a candidate for governor of Maryland he endorsed a "separate but equal" platform, and there is no evidence that he ever reconsidered this political position, even through the 1960s. He opposed efforts by the federal government and the courts to challenge practices of segregation; and even on the horrific matter of lynching, he argued that states, rather than the federal government, should have the authority to decide whether or how to penalize its practice.

University Values

3. The symbolic act of removing President Byrd's name from the stadium would speak to central values of equality. It would continue the University's work to make the campus a more diverse, inclusive, fair, just, and welcoming place. Moreover, changing the name would be consistent with the efforts of current and recent past leadership to improve campus diversity, such as those outlined in the 2010 strategic plan for diversity, *Transforming Maryland: Expectations for Excellence in Diversity and Inclusion* (http://provost.umd.edu/Documents/Strategic_Plan_for_Diversity.pdf), and with the range of other initiatives designed to promote equality and inclusion based on group membership (such as ethnicity, race, nationality, religion, sex, gender).
4. Removing President Byrd's name would provide an opportunity, both within the university and for the external public, to show how the University of Maryland at College Park can be bold, innovative and fearless when addressing issues of race in the twenty-first century — what it means to be a Terp today.
5. Removing the name of President Byrd would reflect the aspirational ideals of the University of Maryland; examples of which are found in the engraved words of Frederick Douglass, now inscribed on Frederick Douglass Square. A second example is the actions of Parren J. Mitchell, the first African-American to graduate with a Master's degree from the University, whose name now emblazons the Parren J. Mitchell Art-Sociology building.
6. For many African-American citizens of the State of Maryland, alumni, faculty, staff and students at the university, President Byrd's name is associated with a history of exclusion and discrimination. Removing his name would provide a public signal of a sharp break with the University's segregationist past, indicating a departure from those values that were prevalent when the stadium was built.

University Climate

7. The university is committed to a welcoming and inclusive climate for all its members. However, maintaining the name contributes to a hostile and unwelcoming climate. This is particularly true for African-American community members whose opportunities for higher education in the State of Maryland were specifically restricted by the policies and programs enacted by President Byrd, and also for other members of the community who believe that the values of exclusion do not reflect their own ideals. As the community becomes aware of the past, and specifically the full range of actions of President Byrd regarding racial segregation, changing the name would signal University respect for the values and struggles of fellow citizens, indicating that their presence is welcome, their stories heard, and their contributions valued. Maintaining the name would be viewed as an indicator of continuing racial insensitivity.
8. The current national climate provides a special opportunity for the State and University of Maryland to be a leader on this critical national issue. This leadership could be one that the campus community could celebrate as it has with the dedication of the Frederick Douglass Plaza and the Parren J. Mitchell Art-Sociology Building.

Resources

9. Leadership on this issue offers a way to engage new donors and re-energize alumni, particularly black alumni. It also could aid in the recruitment of faculty, staff and students.

Educational Merit

10. As an educational institution, the University has an obligation to provide as full and complete information on its history as possible, including those aspects of the story that may be anathema to contemporary values. We have an obligation to avoid perpetuating mis-education.

Public Perception/Politics

11. The football stadium is arguably one of the most nationally visible symbols of the University. Changing the name will receive national attention and will be referenced for some time as events are broadcast from the stadium.
12. There could be a gain of political goodwill for the university across the state.

Arguments Against Removing the Name of Byrd Stadium**Byrd's deeds and actions (See Biographical Notes)**

1. Removal of President Byrd's name could contribute to widespread disregard of Byrd's positive contributions to the university. Over a period of almost fifty years, President Harry C. "Curley" Byrd served the university as an All-American football player, winning coach, athletic director, high-level administrator and, finally, president. The first football stadium was originally named to honor his athletic feats as player, coach and athletic director in 1923. In 1950, his name was transferred to the new stadium to provide similar recognition for his achievements as president. President Byrd is credited with transforming the University of Maryland at College Park from an undistinguished agricultural college to a national university. These changes have provided a foundation for current growth.
2. For many citizens of the State of Maryland, alumni, faculty, staff and students at the university, President Byrd's name carries positive connotations and memories. He is remembered as someone who was committed to athletic excellence and institutional growth and was a powerful advocate of the university, raising funds for an extraordinary number of new buildings and programs.
3. President Byrd's racial views and policies, although unacceptable today, were a product of his time. His views on segregation were characteristic of the Jim Crow era that supported and sustained segregation. Many other leaders during that period had similar views and it is to be expected that he would be in communication with them.

4. The integration of the University of Maryland occurred during Harry C. Byrd's presidency, and though it was a response to court orders (either enacted or impending), all indications are that it was peaceful and without public protest.

University Values

5. Removing President Byrd's name is a symbolic gesture that diverts attention, resources and energy away from developing more substantive policies and programs to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for those previously excluded from the campus.
6. Removing President Byrd's name may be viewed as a facile or "knee-jerk" response to a complex and growing public issue, done too quickly without sufficient attention to its long-term ramifications. It will remind some of the "Orwellian" policies of transforming history to fit current beliefs.

University Climate

7. Removing President Byrd's name sets a precedent and begins a process whereby the names of other buildings, monuments, scholarships and programs named for individuals from this same era or those considered to be offensive for a variety of other reasons would also have to be changed, thereby creating a climate of instability.

Resources

8. In removing President Byrd's name the university risks losing or isolating alumni, donors and political supporters.

Educational Merit

9. Since President Byrd's time, UMD has been transformed from a segregated university to one of the most diverse universities in the nation in the Civil Rights era. Retaining the Byrd name is reminder of the road travelled and the difficult and challenging process involved. By erasing reminders of President Byrd's racist ideals and segregationist principles, the university risks diminishing its achievements, and a critical part of the university's history could be lost.

Public Perception/Politics

10. There could be a loss of political goodwill for the university across the state.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERATIONS AND ACTIONS

The issues raised by the naming of Byrd Stadium present an opportunity to "own" our history. This section of the report presents some alternative considerations and actions that the University may consider in response to the direct and indirect issues raised by the controversy over the naming of Byrd Stadium. The selection of these alternatives benefitted from the Committee's review of the local, regional and national scene where similar concerns were being raised. Specifically, we considered the actions taken or planned at the following institutions: Brown University, Clemson University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Virginia, University of Texas at Austin, Yale University, Georgetown University and Princeton

University. It is our considered opinion that many of the alternatives listed here are applicable regardless of whether the decision is made to remove or keep the stadium name. For the sake of clarity, the alternatives are organized into five different categories, but they are by no means mutually exclusive.

Naming Initiatives

Possible actions with respect to building names, including the football stadium

- ***Revise the existing marker at Byrd Stadium.*** Currently there is a plaque behind the student section that provides information about President Byrd, but there is no mention of his segregationist views and policies. A new marker could be installed to give a more accurate representation of his leadership.
- ***Add a second name or a hyphenated name to Byrd Stadium*** (e.g., the Darrell K. Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium at UT-Austin). This would have the benefit of keeping the historical issue visible for the future.
- ***Install new public markers in and around the stadium.*** The university could add statuary, plaques, or other markers in and around Byrd Stadium to honor individuals who better represent our commitment to diversity and inclusion. One name that came up as an example was Darryl Hill, the first African-American student-athlete to play football in the ACC.
- ***Consider the names of other buildings on campus.*** Byrd Stadium is not the only facility at UMD named after someone who took public positions in support of racial inequality or other forms of discrimination. For example, Francis Scott Key was a prominent defender of slavery and a leader of the Maryland Colonization Society, an organization that sought to expatriate free and enslaved Blacks to Africa. The campus might undertake a broader initiative to discuss and debate building names and university values.
- ***Make social and historical considerations a formal part of the naming process.*** Current policies and procedures used by the university's Naming Committee do not require consideration of whether an individual's beliefs and actions are consistent with the university's commitment to diversity and equality. The university could establish a formal process by which the naming committee and other university officials consider these issues and vet persons for whom buildings might be named.

Historical Initiatives

Possible actions to expand and, in some cases, to correct the University's presentation of its history in public spaces

- ***Correct and expand the historical narrative on campus websites, plaques, and other markers.*** Currently the University website and other public markers say little to nothing about Maryland's past as an all-white, male-only institution, and some even give the mistaken impression that President Byrd endorsed integration because it occurred during his administration. The work group feels strongly that regardless of the decision regarding the naming of Byrd Stadium, the historical narrative needs to be corrected and the University should tell more fully and openly the history of racial segregation and other forms of discrimination on the campus. It should also communicate the story of the proud, ongoing struggle to make this a more excellent, diverse, and inclusive institution.
- ***Create a permanent exhibit on campus about President Byrd.*** In light of his impact on the history of the University of Maryland, a permanent exhibit about President Byrd

could be placed in the McKeldin Library or the Main Administration building. The exhibit would honor his many contributions to the University and would discuss openly his segregationist actions.

- ***Add a discussion of the history of diversity and inclusion at the University of Maryland to the campus tour.*** So that prospective students and visitors can better understand, appreciate, and support the University of Maryland's commitment to diversity and inclusion, the Undergraduate Admissions office could add a tour stop that gives a brief and honest overview of the history of exclusion and inclusion on the College Park campus, including the story of President Byrd's opposition to integration. One possibility is to share this information with visitors at the new Frederick Douglass Square.

Academic Initiatives

Possible actions related to teaching and research

- ***Foster a dialogue about President Byrd and the broader story of segregation and integration through forums, symposia, etc.*** The work group received public input during its deliberations, but the short timetable did not allow us to hold a campus-wide conversation about the decision to remove or keep the current stadium name. President Loh might organize campus-wide events and avenues for discussion with students, staff, faculty and alumni.
- ***Incorporate the story into the General Education curriculum.*** In 2009, Professor Ira Berlin taught a course that investigated the relationship between slavery and the history of the University of Maryland. This course or others like it might be made a permanent part of the undergraduate curriculum.
- ***Create a permanent and campus-wide educational program related to civil rights and the history of diversity and inclusion at the University.*** The programming could include such things as a named lecture series, symposia, etc. The programming might be coordinated with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion's "Rise Above" campaign.
- ***Select a First Year Book that addresses issues of racial exclusion and inclusion.*** The tradition of the First Year Book gives the University community an opportunity to have a shared conversation about issues relevant across campus. This book for 2016-17 might be one that speaks to the issues of racial exclusion and inclusion embedded in the stadium naming debate.
- ***Create a research center.*** To maintain a dialogue about the struggle for social justice at College Park and broader issues of injustice and equality, the University might create a center. One model is the Center of Slavery & Justice at Brown University (<http://www.brown.edu/initiatives/slavery-and-justice/>).

Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

Possible actions to create or build on existing campus-wide initiatives that advance diversity and inclusion

- ***Increase funding and efforts for the recruitment and retention of underrepresented minority faculty and staff.*** In recent decades the university has made progress in diversifying the faculty and staff, but more work remains.
- ***Create, prioritize, and reward professional development opportunities related to diversity and inclusion.*** Excellence through diversity is a shared value on campus, but too often the work of advancing this ideal falls on faculty from marginalized groups or on

individuals with jobs directly related to this mission. Programs should be developed that prepare every faculty member to become skilled at teaching and mentoring diverse populations, and fostering a climate where students from all groups feel included. These activities should be encouraged and rewarded.

- ***Expand campus support for ADVANCE Programs initiatives that promote faculty diversity and inclusion.***
- ***Expand resources for recruiting and retaining underrepresented minority students.*** The recession and its aftermath have hit minority students especially hard and amplified the legacies of segregation and discrimination at UMD. The campus discussion around the naming of Byrd Stadium is an opportunity to commit more financial and institutional resources to initiatives to help minority students succeed, including at the graduate level where underrepresentation is especially dramatic.
- ***Provide more financial and institutional resources to the Office of Diversity and Inclusion.*** The demand to improve our actions and programs in a manner consistent with our values requires increased investment in the offices necessary to reach these goals.
- ***Create better coordination and communication among Presidential Commissions giving them greater voice in campus-wide diversity and inclusion initiatives.*** The campus currently has several Presidential Commissions related to diversity and inclusion, including the Commission on Women; the Commission for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues; the Commission on Ethnic and Minority Issues; and the Commission on Disability Issues. These Commissions are doing important work, and their impact could be amplified if there was increased coordination between them and direct involvement in decision-making and shared governance on campus.
- ***Expand the use of and campus support for the Words of Engagement Intergroup Dialogue Program.*** Making diversity work well is a long-term challenge and this program has been very successful in contributing to doing so.

The legacy of Jim Crow segregation in Maryland higher education continues to affect contemporary policy and programming and impacts not only the campus but also the entire state. As a land grant institution and the flagship campus of the University System of Maryland, UMD's decisions and actions on matters of diversity, inclusion and racial reconciliation can provide leadership that facilitates educational equity and advances democratic values. We would hope to see the University systematically assess the impact of its actions on diversity, inclusion and economic justice and use its leverage to promote those values on the campus, in the surrounding community (e.g., the Greater College Park initiative) and across the state.

Respectfully Submitted,

Byrd Stadium Naming Work Group
Bonnie Thornton Dill, Chair (Professor and Dean, College of Arts and Humanities)
Wanda Alexander (President, UMD Alumni Association Board of Governors)
Akeel Alleyne (Undergraduate Student)
Dorothy Beckett (Professor, Chemistry and Biochemistry)
Ira Berlin (Distinguished University Professor, History)
Willie Brown (Chair, University Senate)

Mary Burke (Assistant Vice President, University Relations)
Damon Evans (Associate Athletic Director, Intercollegiate Athletics)
Nick Hadley (Professor, Physics)
Warren Kelley (Assistant Vice President, Student Affairs)
Steve Klees (Professor, Counseling, Higher Education and Special Education)
Melanie Killen (Professor, Human Development and Quantitative Methodology)
Patricio Korzeniewicz (Chair, Sociology)
Sarah Niezelski (Undergraduate Student)
Randy Ontiveros (Associate Professor, English)
Sandra Quinn (Associate Dean, School of Public Health)
Mark Rivera (Graduate Student)
Kumea Shorter-Gooden (Chief Diversity Officer)
Craig Thompson (Member, University of Maryland College Park Foundation Board of Trustees)

President Harry Clifton “Curley” Byrd: Biographical Notes
4 December 2015

The purpose of this brief document is to highlight the role played by President Byrd in the development of the University of Maryland at College Park and to summarize some of the most important issues relevant to reassessing his history and legacy, particularly in relationship to the question of integration. Extensive documentation is available on his presidency, and this document does not attempt to replicate all existing information but highlights some of the key aspects of his role in building and attempting to maintain a segregated institution.

President Byrd and the Naming of Byrd Stadium

Dr. Harry Clifton “Curley” Byrd (1889-1970) had a remarkable trajectory at the University of Maryland (UMD). He began at College Park as a student active in various sports (baseball, football, track), was a captain of the football team in 1907, and graduated from Maryland Agricultural College with a B.S. in Civil Engineering in 1908 (his doctorate was honorary, conferred by Washington College, Western Maryland College and Dickinson College in the mid-1930s). He became a football coach at UMD in the early 1910s, and a few years later became Athletic Director for the institution (as well as an Instructor in the College). In 1923, the Alumni Association recommended to then-university President Albert Woods that the existing (“old”) football stadium (located on Route 1) be named after “Curley” Byrd for his contribution to Maryland athletics. President Wood agreed, and he implemented this recommendation¹.

Dr. Byrd was named Assistant University President in 1918, Vice-President of the university in 1932, Acting President in 1935 and the official President in 1936. As President (1935-1954), Dr. Byrd oversaw a rapid expansion of the university—between 1935 and 1954, for example, student enrollment grew from 3,400 to 16,000—and the campus as a whole grew rapidly, particularly over the course and immediate aftermath of World War II. This was a period of tremendous growth for the institution, and President Byrd has been credited in the official university’s history for leading this expansion.

The university began construction of a new football stadium in the late 1940s, and the new facilities were to be inaugurated in 1950. In January 1950, with little recorded deliberation and despite Byrd’s demurrals², the Board of Regents of the University of Maryland at College Park proposed that the name of the older university stadium be transferred to the new, almost completed facilities. Byrd Stadium, now located near University Boulevard, was inaugurated a few months later.

Given his personal accomplishments and the considerable growth of the university under his leadership, the reasons for naming the stadium after President Byrd are clear. A detailed account of this presidency can be found in the 1966 book by History Emeritus Professor George Callcott, The University of Maryland A History (1966).³

President Byrd: Missing Elements in the Prevailing Narrative

Official histories of the university summarize many significant achievements of Byrd's presidency, but these prevailing narratives are noteworthy because they completely omit any reference to Byrd's active resistance to efforts at integration and his advocacy for continued segregation. While these additional biographical elements are broadly accepted and not generally challenged, they are absent from the existing accounts of our university's history that are readily available to the campus community.

We provide three examples that illustrate the absence of easily available information, which would allow members of the UMD community to inform themselves and reflect upon the history of segregation, and President's Byrd's role in attempting to maintain it.

ArchivesUM, summary statement on University of Maryland President Harry Clifton "Curley" Byrd

Harry Clifton Byrd (1889-1970), 1935-1954. A 1908 graduate of Maryland Agricultural College, Byrd began his career as the university's football coach and later served as an assistant to Pearson. Under his leadership, the University of Maryland became one of the largest universities in the country as a result of New Deal construction projects, wartime training programs, and the post-war enrollment boom. Byrd's major accomplishments included the development of an educational extension program that became University College and included a full academic curriculum, partially funded by the Army and Air Force, for overseas military personnel. Byrd also took a personal interest in developing an American Studies program. In 1935, Maryland became the first southern state university in the twentieth century to accept African-Americans and, in 1951, the first to accept African-American undergraduates. Finally, the athletic program grew significantly under Byrd's guidance, and the physical plant was greatly expanded. Byrd retired to run, unsuccessfully, for governor.

During Dr. Byrd's tenure at its helm, the University of Maryland accepted African-American students (for example, in the Law School in 1935 and the graduate programs in College Park in 1950), but only when ordered to do so by court orders. And when "Byrd retired to run, unsuccessfully, for governor," he did so partly on his record as an advocate for continued segregation on a "separate but equal" basis.

UMD Website [www.umd.edu], About: History and Mission, Past Presidents
Harry Clifton "Curley" Byrd (1889-1970) was president of the University from 1935 to 1954.

A 1908 graduate of the Maryland Agricultural College with a B.S. in engineering, Byrd began his 43-year career at the University of Maryland with a temporary two-week stint coaching football in 1911. He taught English and history, was athletic director, and served as an assistant to Raymond Pearson before becoming president.

Under his tenure as president, the University of Maryland became one of the largest universities in the country as a result of New Deal construction projects, wartime training programs, and the post-war enrollment boom. Byrd's major accomplishments included the development of an educational extension program that became University College and included a full academic program, partially funded by the Army and Air Force, for overseas military personnel. Byrd also took a personal interest in developing an American Studies program.

An accomplished athlete and former Terrapin football star player, Byrd never lost interest in the game of football. As president, he found the football team's success an effective means of lobbying for dollars from state legislators. The athletic program thus grew significantly under Byrd's guidance. Byrd used university funds to build a new football stadium, which opened in 1950 with a win over Navy. Capital One Field at Byrd Stadium now stands as a reminder of his impact on athletics and the university.

In 1954, Byrd retired to run, unsuccessfully, for governor against Theodore McKeldin. He was honored posthumously in 1995 as an inductee to the University of Maryland Alumni Hall of Fame [<http://www.president.umd.edu/pastpres/byrd/>].

While this particular portrayal does not make the earlier cited linkage between integration and President Byrd's tenure in office, there is also little mention of his efforts to maintain segregation at the University of Maryland during his presidency.

UMD Website [www.umd.edu], About: History and Mission, Timeline
 1935-1954

H.C. "Curley" Byrd is appointed acting university president on June 28, 1935; on Feb. 21, 1936, he is named president. A 1908 graduate of the Maryland Agricultural College with a B.S. in engineering, Byrd began his 43-year career at the University of Maryland with a temporary two-week stint coaching football in 1911. He taught English and history, was athletic director, and served as an assistant to Raymond Pearson before becoming president.

1951

First African-American graduate student enrolls at College Park.

1951

First African-American undergraduate student, Hiram Whittle, enrolls at College Park.

1952

Parren Mitchell, first African-American graduate student to take all of his classes at College Park, graduates [<http://www.umd.edu/timeline/>]

Finally, the link to "University Archives" under "About: History and Mission" in the university website does lead to a page on "University of Maryland History Links" [<http://www.lib.umd.edu/univarchives/history-links/>], but this page contains no obvious documentation on segregation at the University of Maryland in the 1930s-1950s period.

President Byrd and Segregation at University of Maryland, College Park

What does the available historical record suggest about the relationship between President Byrd and segregation at the University of Maryland in College Park?

The University Archives contain hundreds of boxes filled with folders containing an extraordinary number of documents, including detailed letters, informed speeches and long reports on almost any possible subject relevant to an expanding university, documenting Byrd's administrative legacy. Within this very extensive written record, the materials that can be easily identified as pertaining to the topic of segregation, integration and the education of African-Americans represent, in physical volume, a small portion of the documentation. Nevertheless, the existing materials on university policies regarding African-American education provide important and relevant information highlighting some of the major features of the evolving policies adopted under President Byrd regarding African-American education.⁴

After facing initial court decisions against segregation in the mid-1930s (when the university received a writ of mandamus to admit Donald Gaines Murray into its School of Law), President Byrd advocated for the development of "separate but equal" institutions, whereby African-Americans would be given access to educational opportunities at its facilities (on the Eastern Shore of Maryland, the precursor of UMES) and/or Morgan State College. This strategy included repeated efforts to maintain or bring these institutions under the direction of the University of Maryland president.

For academic fields and/or disciplines in which neither the Princess Anne facilities nor Morgan State College were suitable (e.g., most graduate school programs), President Byrd, for the most part promoted making fellowships available that would allow African-American students to attend integrated institutions in the North of the United States. Towards the late 1940's, President Byrd also called for the development of parallel but segregated programs of study in Baltimore to avoid integration at College Park. In some documents,⁵ President Byrd suggested if all these efforts at maintaining segregation failed, the University of Maryland should consider becoming a private institution, so as to avoid the mandates for integration it could face as a public university.

There are a number of **additional materials** available for a more in-depth review of Byrd's efforts to resist integration.

- Mark Tosso's Honors Thesis written in 2001 for the History Department entitled "H.C. 'Curley' Byrd and Opposition to Desegregation at the University of Maryland, 1933-1954," **provides a detailed account of Byrd's efforts to maintain segregation at College Park and his inability to keep pace, on these matters, with changing opinion in the State⁶.**
- Historian Amy Slaton's 2010 essay "Engineering Segregation: The University of Maryland in the Twilight of Jim Crow," **documents Byrd's specific actions in shaping segregated engineering education during the 1940s and 1950s by seeking enhancements in resources and facilities at University of Maryland's Eastern Shore campus as a strategy to keep African-Americans student out of College Park.⁷**

These materials along with accounts in Richard Kluger's definitive history of *Brown v. Board of Education*, *Simple Justice* (1976) corroborate **President Byrd was active in resisting efforts at desegregation and advocating for continued segregation at the University of Maryland in College Park.**

The historical record also indicates from early on **Dr. Byrd was a national leader in coordinating with administrators from other state institutions to construct and develop a coherent strategy to block integration.** As Vice-President of the university (1932-1935 – a period in which nine African-Americans applied and were denied admission to the University of Maryland Law School on the basis of race⁸) - Byrd writes many letters to presidents of other universities to inquire whether they are facing challenges to segregation (or “demands for social equality of the races”), how their institutions are responding to these challenges, and whether his colleagues feel racial agitation is being provoked by “outside direction” (which in Byrd's view might include “‘Liberal’ or ‘Socialist’ clubs,” “organizations with communistic tendencies,” and even “the Y.M.C.A. or the Y.M.A.[sic]”⁹). In part, these letters are significant because in subsequent decades, **President Byrd would often depict demands for racial integration as a product of the agitation of outsiders.** By the late 1940s and early 1950s, while he continued to express suspicion about the influence of Communists, he often referred to demands by the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) as “these people in New York,” while generally portraying “the races” in Maryland as content with existing, segregated arrangements.

The files indicate Byrd received some public support for his efforts in maintaining segregation, even after other officials in the State saw that opposition was futile and urged integration. In his various administrative roles at the University of Maryland, Byrd receives letters praising his efforts to maintain segregation and urging him to uphold his position¹⁰. These letters sometimes express extreme racial intolerance and prejudice. As far as can be told from a cursory assessment of the written record, President Byrd did not deploy the same kind of racially bigoted language. Nonetheless, **as the key figure in developing the state and university's policies on Negro education, he emphasized that segregation should aim at the development of ‘separate but equal’ educational facilities and his arguments in support of resources for building up the Negro branch of the university (University of Maryland, Princess Anne that later became UMES) played on racial stereotypes.** For example, he is quoted as saying: **“If we don't do something about Princess Anne, we're going to have to accept Negroes at College Park, where our girls are”¹¹.** The letters, therefore, provide some insights into the social climate of the time and some of the public emotions that might have strengthened Byrd's anti-integration resolve and supported his decisions and statements.

President Byrd framed many of his arguments as an effort to preserve state's rights in the face of federal intrusion. For example, he made a detailed statement opposing a federal Anti-Lynching Bill, arguing that states are best positioned to address this crime.¹²

Certainly in the more formal challenges to segregation at the University of Maryland President Byrd was perceived as actively and personally engaged in preserving segregation. These include some of the challenges raised by the NAACP (represented by Thurgood Marshall) in the late 1930s. Yet, advocates of integration (such as the eighteen organizations testifying

before Maryland Governor's Commission on Negro Education on 11/22/1949) increasingly argued: "any segregated facility, by the fact of its segregation, is unequal:"¹³ an argument that ultimately succeeded.

President Harry C. "Curley" Byrd did not openly defy the courts in order to maintain segregation. Neither did he provide leadership to facilitate the experience of attending the University of Maryland, College Park for Negro students. The record clearly demonstrates that until forced to integrate, he worked assiduously to maintain segregation at the University of Maryland, exploiting racial anxieties and animosities of the Jim Crow era in support of that position.

¹ Personal communication from Anne Turkos, University Archivist.

² The following quotation is taken from the Board of Regents Minutes, January 10, 1950. "Dr. Byrd stated that he appreciated very much the attitude of the Chairman of the Board and others relative to so honoring him, but that it might be embarrassing to him and to the Board, inasmuch as he had worked hard for three years to bring about development of the Stadium project. The President stated he did not wish it to seem that he had been trying to build a monument to himself. Without regard to the President's view, the Board proceeded to take formal action in accordance with the Chairman's suggestion."

³ George H. Calcott, *The University of Maryland at College Park, A History*, (Noble House, 2005), Chapter 13. This historical account of the Byrd Presidency continues to echo through most of the materials on the era available on the UMD campus.

⁴ UM Archives: UM & Higher Education for Negroes 1947-1951(folder 1 of 2), Office of the President's Records, Series 8, Box 123, provides a good example of the stated policies.

⁵ Same record as cited immediately above.

⁶ Mark D. Tosso, "H.C. 'Curley' Byrd and Opposition To Desegregation at The University Of Maryland 1933-1954." Thesis submitted to the Department of History of the College of Arts and Humanities, University of Maryland, May 2001, (Rev. August 2002).

⁷ Amy E. Slaton, "Engineering Education: The University of Maryland in the Twilight of Jim Crow", *OAH Magazine of History*, 24:3 (July 2010), pgs. 15-23.

⁸ Richard Kluger, *Simple Justice*, (Knopf, 1976)

⁹ UM Archives: Negro Education, 1933-1935; Papers of Harry C. Byrd, Series 1, Box 8. "YMCA" refers to Young Men's Christian Association. A reference for "YMA" was not located.

¹⁰ UM Archives: Negro Education I: March 14, 1923 – Mar 31, 1937 (2 of 3): Records of the President's Office, Series 8, Box 85.

¹¹ Calcott, *Ibid.* p. 351.

¹² UM Archives: Speeches & Statements, Byrd, 1954 and [undated]; Papers of Harry C. Byrd Series 2

¹³ UM Archives: Negro Education I: March 14, 1923 – Mar 31, 1937 (1 of 3): Records of the President's Office, Series 8, Box 85.