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**Subject:** College Council Update  
**Date:** February 26, 2024 at 1:37 PM

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**Cc:** Jonathan Eldridge JEldridge@marin.edu

Greetings, College Council Members:

I'm writing today to follow up on our discussion about the naming of the LRC project. At our last meeting Maria shared concerns raised by the Academic Senate about the building potentially being referred to as the 'Coon Center' at some point in the future, when those of us who know and appreciate Dr. Coon and his many achievements have moved on. I brought these concerns to the Board of Trustees, who were appreciative of the care being taken in the naming process. Based on their comments and other feedback, as well as the discussion we had at College Council, I am providing some additional context and proposed language to address the concerns.

As background, the College has several buildings named after individuals. Only Fusselman Hall has come to be known by that person's (Ada Fusselman) name, likely because it is the only remaining building designated as a 'hall,' which typically in higher education comes with a person's/entity's name attached. The others (buildings and centers) have the full name on record, but are referred to without using the person's name:

- Irwin P. Diamond Physical Education Center (known as PE Building)
- Elizabeth Deedy Student Services Center (known as Student Services)
- Frances Compton Learning Resources Center (now demolished, but known as the Learning Resource Center)

Each of these building names are also further abbreviated for the course schedule and other internal uses (PE, SS, LRC).

The Board's policy on naming buildings (BP 2800) includes language whereby the Board can 'un-name' a building at any point should they feel the need.

For the Board to adopt a name for the LRC project, they will need to approve a resolution. Based on the concerns raised and the information above, I have crafted the following language for a proposed resolution:

**The Learning Resources Center project, currently under construction, will hereby be named *The Dr. David Wain Coon Center for Student Success*, in honor and recognition of Dr. David Wain Coon. This full name will be on record and noted on the building. The building will be referred to as the *Center for Student Success* in the College's external communications and as the *Success Center* in internal communications. *SC (followed by room number)* will be the abbreviation used in the course schedule and other communications referencing specific spaces within the facility.**

This approach codifies within the resolution the naming conventions to be used, ensuring both recognition of Dr. Coon and avoidance of the potential issues raised by the Academic Senate.

Also, regarding the question raised by Sally about acknowledging indigenous peoples, as I

Also, regarding the question raised by Sally about acknowledging indigenous peoples, as I noted in our meeting we are currently working with the leadership of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria and the local Coast Miwok members to carry out our land acknowledgment efforts. These indigenous leaders support our approach to include educational and other materials in and around the new building which will tie to the memorial garden at the edge of the Student Services lawn and provide on-going opportunities to discuss the College's relationship to Native land and people, ensuring a statement of acknowledgment is living and active, rather than perfunctory or performative.

I hope this additional information is helpful. We will agendaize the naming of the LRC for our upcoming meeting and I look forward to hearing your thoughts on the language proposed above.

Thank you.

Jonathan



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