

ACTION ITEM #1
WSU Pullman, Facilities Names Recommendation
"Waller Way"
(Stacy Pearson/Olivia Yang)

September 22, 2017

TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF REGENTS

SUBJECT: WSU Pullman, Facilities Names Recommendation,
Waller Way

PROPOSED: That the Board of Regents approve the recommendation of renaming the portion of Nevada Street from Stadium Way to the green parking lot between Stimson and Waller Hall on the WSU Pullman campus to "Waller Way."

SUBMITTED BY: Stacy Pearson, Vice President for Finance & Administration

SUPPORTING INFORMATION: As stated by the requestor, "When it was decided that Waller Hall would be closed, due to problems with the building's structural integrity and new directions that Residence Life wanted to pursue, our community came together to celebrate the wonderful place that had become our home. Alumni from multiple decades, friends and University and City dignitaries attended. The large impact Waller and its residents had on WSU became clear. Since the future of the building is uncertain, we decided to try and commemorate the hall for generations of Cougars to come. To this end, we began a campaign to rename Nevada Street from Stadium Way to the end of the road in front of Waller Hall to 'Waller Way.'" The requester provided the names and signatures of a combination of 113 Alumni, current students, and community members in support of the name change.

ATTACHMENTS: Attachment A: Name Change Proposal for Approval
Attachment B: Request to Facilities Naming Committee



Office of
Finance and Administration

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kirk Schulz, President

FROM: Stacy Pearson, Vice President, Finance & Administration
Chair of the Facilities Naming Committee

DATE: May 30, 2017

SUBJECT: Name Change Proposal for Approval

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stacy Pearson".

The Facilities Naming Committee recently received a proposal to rename the portion of Nevada Street from Stadium Way to the green parking lot between Stimson and Waller Hall. The requested name to be "Waller Way."

As stated by the requestor, "When it was decided that Waller Hall would be closed, due to problems with the building's structural integrity and new directions that Residence Life wanted to pursue, our community came together to celebrate the wonderful place that had become our home. Alumni from multiple decades, friends and University and City dignitaries attended. The large impact Waller and its residents had on WSU became clear. Since the future of the building is uncertain, we decided to try and commemorate the hall for generations of Cougars to come. To this end, we began a campaign to rename Nevada Street from Stadium Way to the end of the road in front of Waller Hall to 'Waller Way.'" The requester provided the names and signatures of a combination of 113 Alumni, current students, and community members in support of the name change.

The Facilities Naming committee concurs with the proposal. If you approve, please provide your acceptance and confirm at the bottom of this page.

Thank you.

I concur with the above request

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Kirk Schulz.

Dr. Kirk Schulz, President

6-6-17
Date

Attachment B

Dear Chair of the Facilities Naming Committee,

My name is Justin Niedermeyer and I am writing to you on behalf of generations of alumni from Waller Residence Hall to request that the portion of Nevada Street that runs from Stadium Way to the Green parking lot between Stimson and Waller Halls be renamed to “Waller Way.”

Waller Hall was named after Washington State College Vice-President and Professor Osmar L. Waller. Its residents, who adopted the moniker of “Windsors,” were known as the “Gentlemen of Campus” and had a strong impact on the WSU and Pullman communities. Over its 80-year history, Waller hosted countless events including all-campus dances, ASWSU Presidential Debates, speeches by Washington’s Secretary of State, community service events, tutoring sessions for residents, and many others. Waller also played a major role in the affairs of the Residence Hall Association, where our representatives were known for being strong advocates for residents across campus.

In addition, it is where innumerable memories were made by Cougars. It was named Hall of the Year by the Residence Hall Association and Residence Life many times, including two years in a row in 2013 and 2014. Residents helped to foster a positive social and academic experience for each other and often felt like family. In fact, there are many instances (myself included) where multiple generations of a resident’s family would come to WSU and live in the hall. After the hall was closed, our crest was moved to Rico’s Pub, where it is now displayed.

When it was decided that Waller Hall would be closed, due to problems with the building’s structural integrity and new directions that Residence Life wanted to pursue, our community came together to celebrate the wonderful place that had become our home. Alumni from multiple decades, friends, and University and City dignitaries attended. The large impact Waller and its residents had on WSU became clear. Since the future of the building is uncertain, we decided to try and commemorate the hall for generations of Cougars to come.

To this end, we began a campaign to rename Nevada Street from Stadium Way to the end of the road in front of Waller Hall to “Waller Way.” The “Waller Way” was not only the historical name of our hall’s newsletter, but also the way that our community hoped that Windsors would conduct themselves in their studies and in life: with a sense of honor, respect, and courage. We hope that this street will be a lasting tribute to the hall well into the future.

We reached out to alumni of the hall, current students (in 2016), the RHA Council, and the ASWSU Executive Board for support. Enclosed is evidence of it:

- In the spring of 2016, we completed a petition with over 100 signatures of alumni, students, and community members that support the name change. A copy of this petition is enclosed, which includes digital signatures. To view the original petition online, please go to <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/wallerway>.
- After this goal was reached, we received unanimous support via resolution from the 2015-2016 Residence Hall Association for the name change. This letter is enclosed.

- After working with Former ASWSU President Geiger in spring 2016, he turned the topic of support to the incoming 2016-2017 ASWSU Executive Board. The Executive Board gave their support in the fall of 2016. This letter is also enclosed.

The process of gathering this support and communicating with the relevant offices took some time. We originally thought that the plan had to be approved by the Pullman City Council and the Office of the President, so please excuse that these materials are not addressed to the Naming Committee.

It is noteworthy that Athletic Director Moos successfully requested to rename Colorado Street to Cougar Way. This partially motivated by the University of Colorado's then-recent joining of the Pac-12, and supported do to the substantial impact Cougars have had on the University and the personal achievements of Cougars throughout their lives. We believe that our motivation to rename this portion of Nevada Street is along the same lines as this precedent: it commemorates a residence hall that was home to thousands of alumni that had an undoubted impact on the University and saw many achievements while it was open.

We would like to ask you and your committee to support this name change. Luckily, Waller Hall is currently the only building on this portion of Nevada Street. We hope that this change, if you are in favor, would be enacted before the Digital Classroom is completed, to avoid any complications that may bring.

I appreciate your and your committee's time reviewing the enclosed materials. Please do not hesitate do ask if you need any additional information.

Once again, on behalf of Windsors, friends and family of the hall, and Cougars everywhere, thank you.

Go Cougs!



Justin Niedermeyer
Class of '16
79th Duke of Windsor



Encl.:

1. Copy of digital petition of support
2. Scan of resolution of support from the 2015-2016 RHA Council
3. Scan of letter of support from the 2016-2017 ASWSU Executive Board



This petition has collected
113 signatures
using the online tools at iPetitions.com

Printed on 2016-11-06