
Barrows Family Letter Supporting Un-Naming

To: UC Berkeley Building Name Review Committee <building-name-review@berkeley.edu>

Dear Building Name Review Committee,

We write on behalf of 25 descendents of David Prescott Barrows, spanning three generations. Attached you will find a copy of a letter supporting the efforts of the Building Name Review Committee and the proposal to remove Barrows's name from Barrows Hall.

Although the attached letter expresses the sentiments of a sizable portion of our family, we do not speak for all Barrows descendents. As in any large extended family, our members subscribe to a broad range of viewpoints, including the desire held by some to keep his name on the building. You will receive letters from those family members, as well as from those who support un-naming but wish to express additional rationale behind their decision.

The un-naming proposal put forth by Melissa Charles and Takiyah Jackson has sparked vigorous intellectual and emotional dialog within our extended family. Many of us have been grateful for the opportunity to critically engage with Barrows's legacy and one another in drafting this response.

This proposal to remove Barrows's name from a prominent campus building has brought us closer together in our desire to advance our family's commitment to serving the University of California's diverse community.

All our best,

Alec Stewart
Lauren Wondolowski
Sarah Cranford
John Cunningham

August 20, 2020

Building Name Review Committee
Office of the Chancellor
University of California, Berkeley
200 California Hall # 1500
Berkeley, CA 94720-1500

Dear members of the Building Name Review Committee,

We are grandchildren, great grandchildren, and great great grandchildren of David Prescott Barrows. We are united in working against all forms of white supremacy, systemic racism, colonialism, and oppression, and we acknowledge the deep pain caused by his involvement with these social structures, most notably as an administrator with the Philippines Commission. Although we cannot know that pain ourselves, we will not deny it and we deeply regret any pain it may have caused. It is for these reasons that we support the removal of David Barrows's name from Barrows Hall.

We have arrived at this position through deep reflection on Barrows's life and legacy. Throughout our lives, we have known him as a beloved family figure who dedicated his life to education and public service. We have strived to live these values, and many of us have chosen careers which we hope do them justice. In recent years, we have followed the debates surrounding the building's name with growing concern. We wholeheartedly want people of all identities and backgrounds to feel welcome on the UC Berkeley campus and in Barrows Hall. We value the efforts of the students, staff, and faculty within the departments of African American Studies, Ethnic Studies, Near Eastern Studies, Asian American Studies, Chicano Studies, Native American Studies, Women's Studies, Political Science, and Sociology to draw attention to and dismantle patriarchal and racist social structures. We also recognize that for many in the UC Berkeley community, the symbolism of a building memorializing Barrows stands in opposition to these aims.

We believe David Barrows cared deeply about the University of California and the people who work and study on its campuses. Today's University is a global crossroads and a home to people of myriad identities, heritages, and perspectives. Were he alive today, Barrows may well have supported removing his own name from the building after listening to and learning from those who object to his actions and writings. We humbly believe that our ability to step back and show respect for our fellow humans is our best, most meaningful testament to the Barrows legacy.

In the spirit of humanism, justice, equity, and love—values held dear within our family—we sincerely hope that removing his name from the Hall will pave a path from a place of pain

toward a place of social healing. We recognize there is still much work to be done. To that end, we would welcome an opportunity to sit in conversation with those who are directly affected by Barrows's legacy. We are willing to be vulnerable with you, to learn and grow with you, and to put actions behind our words.

We invite other families to join us.

In solidarity and with great respect,

Alec Stewart (UC Berkeley '05, PhD '20)

Sarah Cranford (UC Berkeley '05)

Lauren Wondolowski

John Barrows Cunningham (UC Berkeley '83)

Victoria B. Adams

Nancy Barrows Duggan

Fox Valdez Farrell

James Hafner Farrell

Julianne Hafner Farrell

Elizabeth Hafner (UC Berkeley '82)

Katherine Bernal Hafner

Parke Hafner

Prescott W. Hafner (UC Berkeley '80)

Richard P. Hafner, Jr. (UC Berkeley '50, MA '55)

Katherine Himmelman

Mary S. McCosker (UC Berkeley '68, Teaching Credential '69)

Megan McCosker Mandigo

Kate McCosker Conklin

Zanny Milo

Sean Rumsey

David Stewart (UC Berkeley '71)

Robert Stewart (UC Berkeley '73)

Sara Stewart

Anne Barrows Stewart Wondolowski (UC Berkeley '77)

Erin Sullivan