

Dear Chancellor Christ and UC Berkeley Building Name Review Committee,

As members of the UC Berkeley Sociology Department's Anti-Racism Working Group, we are writing to support the [Proposal to Un-Name Barrows Hall](#).

As outlined by Melissa Charles and Takiyah Jackson of the UC Berkeley African American Student Development Office in the proposal, David Prescott Barrows was a virulent racist who directly harmed communities of color and propagated white supremacist ideologies. The current namesake built his career on degrading and harmful ideas about education that are anathema to the values and principles of inclusivity and engaged inquiry that those of us who work and teach in the building today hold dear. In a place where so much of the university's teaching and research takes place, it would be a step in the right direction to reorient our definitions of excellence and demand more stringent criteria for honoring alumni; Berkeley has many honorable and accomplished graduates, and our campus has a duty to promote legacies that center inclusion, equity, and growth.

As both students and educators at Berkeley, we must utilize our agency to create the kind of institutional legacy we want to leave behind. As we do the deeper work of interrogating our unrepresentative syllabi, disrupting our culture of prioritizing white European thought and experience, and dismantling structures that undermine the success and wellbeing of Black, Filipino, and other students of color, we must also ensure that the spaces in which we do this work participate in this vision of an anti-racist university.

We look forward to one day inhabiting a space that no longer honors David Prescott Barrows and instead uplifts alumni whose work is in service, rather than opposition, to our values.

Signed

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