



**NWU**®

NORTH-WEST UNIVERSITY  
NOORDWES-UNIVERSITEIT  
YUNIBESITI YA BOKONE-BOPHIRIMA

## **POLICY FOR HONORARY NAMING, NAMING AND RENAMING OF NWU ENTITIES**

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## POLICY FOR HONORARY NAMING, NAMING AND RENAMING OF NWU ENTITIES

### Preamble

Against the background of the dream to be an internationally recognised university in Africa, distinguished for engaged scholarship, social responsiveness and an ethic of care, the council of the North-West University (NWU) has adopted this policy on 22 June 2023.

### 1 Interpretation and application

This policy must be interpreted and applied in a manner consistent with the –

- 1.1 Higher Education Act, 101 of 1997;
- 1.2 National Heritage Resources Management Act, 25 of 1999 and policies and regulations prescribed in terms thereof;
- 1.3 South African Geographical Names Council Act, 118 of 1998;
- 1.4 NWU Statute; and
- 1.5 NWU Policy on Development and Fundraising.

### 2 Definitions

In this policy –

“**donation**” means the transfer of a gift – whether monetary or in kind – to the university where the donor expects nothing in return other than recognition and the disposition of the gift in accordance with the donor’s wishes;

“**entity**” refers to –

- a physical entity such as a building, residence, lecture hall, laboratory, or a library;
- an external space such as a courtyard, walkway, or a garden;
- an organisational unit such as a centre, institute, or a unit;
- an academic position such as a research unit or research chair;
- an award such as a scholarship;
- an event or activity such as a concert or public lecture, and
- any other item that the Honorary Awards Committee deems worthy of recommendation for honorary naming or naming;

“**honorary naming**” refers to the process and outcome by means of which the NWU involves the university community in a defined procedure to name and rename entities of the University to recognise persons, companies or foundations for service, donations, sponsorships, scholarships or similar contributions;

“**naming**” refers to the process and outcome by means of which the NWU involves the university community in a defined procedure to name entities where honorary naming is not intended;

“**renaming**” means a process and outcome by means of which the NWU involves the university community in a defined procedure by means of which an honorary name or a neutral name of an entity at the NWU is renamed.

### **3 Purpose of the policy**

The purpose of this policy is to regulate the naming of physical, academic and other entities at the NWU and to ensure that a fair and transparent procedure is followed in preparation for honouring persons and organisations, and in the general for the naming of entities.

### **4 Policy statement**

It is the policy of the NWU that –

- 4.1 persons, organisations and companies may be honoured by naming entities of the university in their honour, and by other means including the erection of statues and the exhibition of paintings;
- 4.2 honorary naming may be considered where a person, organisation or company has made a significant contribution or rendered an exceptional service of enduring value to the NWU, the community or the country;
- 4.3 the naming of an entity that is sponsored by a company must be based on a medium- to long-term commitment by the company to the sponsorship, provided that, if the sponsorship is terminated, the entity concerned may be renamed;
- 4.4 only council may authorise, subject to the approval of senate, honorary naming as contemplated in this policy;
- 4.5 honorary naming is done sparingly and carefully and only for the purpose of recognising unique contributions and to acknowledge a clear association by those honoured with the values, the dream and the purpose of the university;
- 4.6 the honorary naming of living persons and in all cases where financial benefaction is concerned, must be considered with utmost caution;
- 4.7 the naming of entities other than honorary naming must take into account the strategic direction of the NWU and its commitment to inclusivity, diversity, social justice and an ethic of care;
- 4.8 the renaming of buildings and the recontextualization or the relocation or removal of statues, portraits and other works of art may only be undertaken after having been declared necessary by a motivated resolution of council taken on the recommendation of senate; and
- 4.9 a consistent, coordinated, cost-effective and transparent approach to honorary naming, naming and renaming of entities of the university is implemented by means of clear and uniform rules and procedures made by the University Management committee consistent with this policy.

### **5 Roles and responsibilities**

#### **5.1 University Management Committee (UMC)**

- 5.1.1 The UMC must establish a standing committee with the mandate to consider proposals for honorary naming, naming and renaming received from stakeholders.
- 5.1.2 The standing committee must seek the opinions of members of the university community and other interested parties on matters related to proposals received in terms of 5.1.1.
- 5.1.3 In its assessment of proposals for renaming, the standing committee must take the following into consideration:
  - 5.1.3.1 legal opinion and heritage implications in regard to possible name changes;
  - 5.1.3.2 history and significance of the particular name;
  - 5.1.3.3 motivation for the proposal for renaming, especially where donations are involved.
- 5.1.4 The input from members of the university community referred to in 5.1.2 must be included in the report to be submitted to UMC for consideration and recommendation to the Honorary Awards Committee.

## **5.2 Honorary Awards Committee**

5.2.1 An Honorary Awards Committee (HAC) is established, consisting of –

- the Vice-Chancellor who is the chairperson of the committee;
- the chairperson of the council;
- the deputy chairperson of the council;
- the three members of council elected by senate; and
- the registrar.

5.2.2 The HAC considers proposals from the UMC received in accordance with 5.1.4, and submits a report and its recommendations to senate in accordance with its terms of reference.

## **5.3 Senate**

5.3.1 Upon the tabling of the report and recommendations of the HAC, members of senate may ask questions for clarification of the report and recommendations before deciding, without publicly debating the merits of the proposals in respect of honorary naming, naming or renaming, in support or decline thereof.

5.3.2 The decision of the senate is taken in a secret ballot by majority vote.

## **5.4 Council**

5.4.1 Upon receipt of a recommendation by the senate for honorary naming, naming or renaming of an entity, the council approves or declines approval thereof based on considerations of the best interests of the NWU.

5.4.2 Consideration, if any, of the merits of the person, companies or foundations to be honoured, must occur in camera.

5.4.3 The decision of the council is taken in a secret ballot by majority vote.

## **6 Scope of application**

6.1 This policy is applicable to entities hosted at all campuses and other sites owned or under control of the NWU and relates to the general as well as honorary naming, naming or renaming of buildings, roads, the display of flags, and portrayals of persons by means of statues, portraits and paintings, and other works of art.

6.2 This policy as well as the UMC rules and procedures that are developed in accordance with the policy apply to all members of the NWU community.