



August 21, 2020

To the members of the Council on Virginia Tech History,

As the Virginia Tech community prepares to begin a new academic year amidst the uncertainty of a global pandemic, I wanted to express my gratitude for your contribution to the recent conversations and historic and courageous action our community took to remove the initial names and rename two campus residence halls in response to my [charge of June 8](#).

You quickly convened and put forth recommendations to the Commemorative Tributes Committee for their further deliberation and recommendation. Based on your thorough and thoughtful work, they reached a final recommendation that they shared with me. I then presented four resolutions to the Board of Visitors' Executive Committee on August 13 which were [subsequently approved](#). Board members echoed my gratitude for the timely and important work of the Council on Virginia Tech History and the Commemorative Tributes Committee.

The two recommendations satisfy the charge of June 8. I look forward to your input on signage, including plaques and other ways to explain and memorialize the actions that led to the naming of Hoge Hall and Whitehurst Hall at the request of the Board of Visitors. In addition, I welcome the Council's input and suggestions regarding currently unnamed buildings and spaces and future opportunities.

It is important for the Council to continue to engage its initial charge and tell the broader histories of Virginia Tech in preparation for the university's sesquicentennial celebration in 2022. There is still much to do together as we look at our history in context and reach forward to realize the aspirations of the Beyond Boundaries vision for the future. I look forward to meeting with the Council (virtually as needed) to thank you in person and discuss the forward direction of our work together.

I thank you for all you have done, and will continue to do on behalf of Virginia Tech.

Sincerely,

Timothy D. Sands
President