

Resolution of the University at Buffalo Council
June 14, 2021

Emeritus council member resolution – June Williams Hoeflich

- Whereas* June Williams Hoeflich, B.S. '84, served the University at Buffalo Council for 13 years with great distinction and outstanding devotion; and
- whereas* the UB Council and the entire UB community have benefitted from Ms. Hoeflich's invaluable experience and thoughtful perspective during her tenure; and
- whereas* Ms. Hoeflich, as a deeply engaged and insightful member of the UB Council, has supported UB's mission of excellence in educational, research, scholarship and community engagement; and
- whereas* Ms. Hoeflich is a dedicated UB alumna, having also served as a trustee for the UB Foundation, where she similarly demonstrated her leadership, acumen, expertise and commitment to advancing the university's vision; and
- whereas* Ms. Hoeflich has sought to contribute to the betterment of the Western New York community and greater society through her participation and leadership in various philanthropic and cultural organizations, offering her expertise in the areas of health care and finance; and
- whereas* the UB Council and the entire university community are honored by her affiliation with UB; be it therefore
- resolved* that UB and the UB Council express deep and enduring gratitude to June Williams Hoeflich; and be it further
- resolved* that the UB Council mark, in a formal and lasting manner, Ms. Hoeflich's permanent place of prominence in its endeavors and traditions; and be it further
- resolved* that Ms. Hoeflich be designated a member emeritus of the UB Council; and be it further
- resolved* that this resolution be permanently entered into the records of the University at Buffalo Council, and that a copy be presented to Ms. Hoeflich.

Norton resolution – Thomas A. Russo

- Whereas* Thomas A. Russo, MD, SUNY Distinguished Professor of Medicine and Chief of the Division of Infectious Diseases in the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, is one of the most respected and accomplished scholars in his field; and
- whereas* Dr. Russo, a deeply valued member of the University at Buffalo faculty for nearly three decades, is renowned for his sustained academic achievements, profound research discoveries and seminal contributions to his field, his school and the university; and
- whereas* he is both a dedicated physician at the Buffalo Veterans Affairs Medical Center and highly productive researcher who leads a nationally funded translational research program at UB; and
- whereas* he has demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to teaching and mentoring--from delivering lectures to first- and second-year medical students, to holding grand rounds, to overseeing the training of fellows in his lab; and
- whereas* the local, national and global media have sought him out for his depth of expertise on COVID-19, and he has kept the public educated and informed about how best to manage the pandemic; and
- whereas* he has served UB and his fellow health-care providers with distinction, helping ensure the health and safety of our university community and the broader region throughout the public health crisis; and
- whereas* the UB Council concurs that, as an esteemed UB faculty member who generously shares his knowledge and expertise with our university and the Western New York community, Dr. Russo exemplifies UB Chancellor Charles P. Norton’s characterization of an individual whose accomplishments “dignify the performer and Buffalo in the eyes of the world”; be it therefore
- resolved* that the UB Council expresses its abiding gratitude for Dr. Thomas A. Russo’s significant contributions to the health, well-being and vitality of the Western New York region; and be it further
- resolved* that the UB Council wholeheartedly and unanimously endorses Dr. Russo as the 2021 Chancellor Norton Medalist; and be it further
- resolved* that the UB Council marks the permanent place of prominence of Dr. Russo in its endeavors and traditions by presenting him with the Chancellor Norton Medal at the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences commencement ceremony on April 30, 2021; and be it further
- resolved* that this resolution be permanently entered into the records of the UB Council, and that a copy be presented publicly to Dr. Russo.

Willie R. Evans Quadrangle naming

- Whereas* Porter Quadrangle is a residence hall within the Ellicott Complex on the University at Buffalo's North Campus; and
- whereas* UB is deeply committed to fostering a diverse, inclusive and welcoming community; and
- whereas* UB recognizes that the namings of campus buildings, spaces and roadways hold important symbolic value; and
- whereas* UB's scholarly community wants to ensure that these symbols align with the university's identity as a diverse, inclusive scholarly community
- whereas* the University at Buffalo Council wholeheartedly supports UB's cultivation of a scholarly community that exemplifies inclusive excellence in its research, scholarship, creative activities, educational excellence and service to the community; and
- whereas* the late Willie R. Evans, EdB '60, was a student-athlete, a star running back and one of only two Black members of UB's historic 1958 football team; and
- whereas* the 1958 UB team unanimously agreed to forego their invitation to the Tangerine Bowl in Orlando, Florida, opposing segregation rules that would have barred Mr. Evans and teammate Mike Wilson from playing; and
- whereas* Mr. Evans, a prominent UB alumnus, demonstrated his lifelong dedication to Buffalo and UB by serving as an educator in the Buffalo Public Schools for more than three decades and as an active member of the UB Alumni Association, including as president; and
- whereas* UB has recognized Mr. Evans' profound impact on the university and the region by awarding him the Community Leadership Medal, the Distinguished Alumni Award, the Russell J. Gugino Award and, along with his football teammates, the Chancellor Charles P. Norton Medal; and
- whereas* the UB Council embraces the opportunity to recognize individuals who have made exceptional contributions to UB and Western New York that have left a positive imprint on our institution and our region, and who have further demonstrated a steadfast commitment to UB's mission of public service; be it therefore
- resolved* that the hall formerly named Porter Quadrangle be renamed Willie R. Evans Quadrangle, and be it further
- resolved* that the UB Council mark, in a formal and lasting manner, Willie R. Evans' permanent place of prominence at UB and in the community; and be it further
- resolved* that this resolution be permanently entered into the records of the UB Council.

Walter E. Schmid Chair in Chemical Engineering

- Whereas* the late Walter E. Schmid, a graduate of the University of Rhode Island College of Engineering and the University of West Virginia, was an accomplished chemical engineer; and
- whereas* Mr. Schmid, who lived much of his life in Western New York, dedicated his career to the pursuit of processes that increased the safety and reliability of gases and liquids, and developed many new procedures for commercial plants that are still used today; and
- whereas* Mr. Schmid was also committed to the welfare of his country, community and profession, having actively served in the armed forces during the Korean Conflict and, later, having actively served in professional organizations such as the American Institute of Chemical Engineers; and
- whereas* the Walter E. Schmid Family Foundation was created to support the philanthropic endeavors of Western New York and honor Mr. Schmid's achievements in chemical engineering; and
- whereas* Mrs. Nancy Schmid, representative of the Schmid Family Foundation, desires to celebrate her late husband and his accomplishments by establishing an endowed chair in the UB School of Engineering and Applied Sciences; be it therefore
- resolved* that in deep appreciation for the philanthropic commitment of the Walter E. Schmid Family Foundation, the UB Council hereby endorses the naming of the Walter E. Schmid Chair in Chemical Engineering; and be it further
- resolved* that this recognition be forwarded to the State University of New York System Administration for final review and approval by the SUNY Chancellor and the SUNY Board of Trustees; and be it further
- resolved* that this resolution be permanently entered into the records of the UB Council.