

**Resolution to remove the name of John and Editha Kapoor from
The UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences**

To: UB President Tripathi, the UB Council, the SUNY Chancellor, and the SUNY BOT

From: The UB Faculty Senate

Date Proposed to FSEC: May 8, 2019

First Reading to the Faculty Senate: May 14, 2019

Second Reading to the Faculty Senate: May 14, 2019

Approved by the Faculty Senate: May 14, 2019

Effective Date:

Whereas, In 2012, the newly renovated University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences building was named in honor of John and Editha Kapoor after John Kapoor, a 1972 graduate of the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, gave ~\$10.8M in gifts to UB^{1,2}, and;

Whereas, in 2017, John Kapoor and four top executives of Insys Therapeutics, were charged with serious criminal allegations regarding their professional activities to help bolster the sales and distribution of prescription opioids in this country by licensed physicians³, and;

Whereas, “UB is well aware that the abuse of opioid medications is a severe national problem, one that the University at Buffalo is committed to combating everyday through our faculty research, patient care and community outreach, and the training of highly skilled, compassionate health care professionals”³, and;

Whereas, On Friday May 2, a federal jury in Boston found “John Kapoor and 4 of his top executives guilty of racketeering by conspiring to fuel sales of its highly potent drug, Subsys (fentanyl sublingual spray), by not only bribing doctors to prescribe their product but also by misleading insurers about patients’ need for the drug”^{4,5}, and;

Whereas, in a statement immediately issued by UB shortly after the verdict stated: “The University is aware of Dr. Kapoor’s conviction in federal court today. The leadership of UB is currently reviewing and discussing the impact under UB and SUNY policies pertaining to university namings. The university recognizes the seriousness of this matter and is giving it very careful consideration”⁴, and;

Whereas, “UB policy allows for modification of a naming if a future action or event occurs that will cause irreparable injury to the university’s image, reputation, or ability to pursue its mission or if the donor does not fulfill his/her gift commitment at the completion of the agreed-upon payment period”⁴, and;

Whereas, “under this policy, the “unnaming” of a building follows the same process used for a naming: recommendation by UB’s vice president for university advancement, followed by presidential and UB Council approval, followed by review and approval by the SUNY chancellor and a final decision by the SUNY Board of Trustees”⁴.

Therefore, be it resolved, that the UB Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the UB Faculty Senate strongly and respectfully request that UB President Tripathi, The UB Council, The SUNY Chancellor, and the SUNY Board of Trustees immediately take the necessary steps to remove the name of John and Editha Kapoor from the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, and;

May it be further resolved, that the UB Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Faculty Senate request the UB Professional Staff Senate, the UB Undergraduate Association, the UB Graduate Student Association, the UB School of Pharmacy Student Association, the UB Jacobs School of Medicine Student Association (aka Polity), the UB Jacobs School of Medicine Faculty Council, and the SUNY University Faculty Senate make similar timely and urgent requests to remove the names of John and Editha Kapoor from the UB School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences building.

References:

1. [UB Celebrates Kapoor Hall Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting](#)
2. [UB reviewing Kapoor Hall name following John Kapoor’s guilty verdict](#)
3. [The University at Buffalo released this statement today regarding charges brought against John Kapoor in federal court](#)
4. [UB statement regarding John Kapoor verdict](#)
5. [Top Executives of Insys, an Opioid Company, Are Found Guilty of Racketeering](#)

Sent for Consideration on:

Decision: