

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE STROM THURMOND WELLNESS AND FITNESS CENTER BE RENAMED

Whereas members of UofSC faculty, staff, and student body, parents of current and former students, renowned former student body athletes, distinguished alumni, and members of the local community have asked that the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center be renamed;

Whereas Bob Caslen, in his first official act as UofSC President, established the Presidential Commission on University History;

Whereas on October 8, 2020, the 112th UofSC Student Senate passed resolution SBL 38, “A Recommendation to Rename the Strom Thurmond Wellness and Fitness Center”;

Whereas the Faculty Senate wishes to be involved in the process “to examine and address historic context at the university, from evaluating and re-naming university buildings to broadening acknowledgement of key groups and individuals that have contributed to the university over time”;

Whereas the Black Faculty Caucus reminds us that the renaming of buildings, while important, is a largely symbolic gesture: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the faculty of the University of South Carolina, Columbia—

- 1) requests that the Board of Trustees rename the Wellness and Fitness Center;
- 2) endorses in principle SBL 38, “A Recommendation to Rename the Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center” passed on October 8, 2020;
- 3) urges the Presidential Commission on University History to prioritize and expedite its review of the Strom Thurmond Fitness and Wellness Center with the goal of its official renaming;
- 4) recommends that a special faculty committee on social and racial justice, with six members, be established through the 2021/2022 academic year to work with and advise the Presidential Commission on University History and other issues of social and racial justice on campus; this committee should report no less than twice a semester to the faculty senate and at each meeting of the General Faculty and should include a member from the Black Faculty Caucus, and with representation from other marginalized communities on campus;
- 5) requests that the Presidential Commission on University History provide the special faculty committee an opportunity to review and comment on its findings in advance of public release.