

R F2017.06

A Resolution Supporting the Proposal to Rename the Clarence Cook Little Science Building

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

13 September 2017

Sponsors: Nicholas Fadanelli, Kristen Ball, & Ryan Gillcrist

Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to “actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life”¹; and,

Whereas, the College of Literature, Science, and Arts (hereafter LSA) building located at 1100 North University Avenue is currently named the Clarence Cook Little Science Building (hereafter C.C. Little Building) after University of Michigan President Emeritus Clarence Cook Little (hereafter President C.C. Little); and,

Whereas, the naming of this building after President C.C. Little has been a controversial topic of debate on campus for some time now²; and,

Whereas, while University of Michigan President, President C.C. Little utilized his position to openly advocate for increased eugenics research, education, administration and other eugenics ideas, including but not limited to: forced sterilizations, birth control, and restrictive immigration laws on those deemed “unfit” during his time on the Board of the American Eugenics Society³; and,

Whereas, the definition of “eugenics” is, “the study of or belief in the possibility of improving the qualities of the human species or a human population, especially by such means as discouraging reproduction by persons having genetic defects or presumed to have inheritable undesirable traits,”⁴; and,

Whereas, while President of the Third Race Betterment Conference, which was held at Dr. Kellogg’s sanatorium in Battle Creek, Michigan, President C.C. Little used his position as University of Michigan President to get speakers to give talks on, “Sterilization of the Feeble Minded in Michigan,” “The Menace of the Melting Pot Myth,” “The Practical Application of Eugenic Principles,” “Sterilization in California -

¹ The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

² <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/viewpoints/roundtable-whats-name>
<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/viewpoints/op-ed-cc-little-naming-buildings-eugenics>
<http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/04/06/university-michigan-confronting-controversy/100134836/>

³ The Power of Place-Naming: C.C. Little, Eugenics, and the University of Michigan - event on Tuesday April 17th, 2017

⁴ <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/eugenics>

A Study of Patients Coming to California State Institutions for Sterilization Only,” “The Menace of the Half-Man,” and “A Better and Healthier Man”⁵; and,

Whereas, during President C.C. Little’s four year tenure as the University of Michigan President, he is known for little beyond his efforts involving eugenics; and,

Whereas, “Hitler proudly told his comrades just how closely he followed the progress of the American eugenics movement. ‘I have studied with great interest,’ he told a fellow Nazi, ‘the laws of several American states concerning prevention of reproduction by people whose progeny would, in all probability, be of no value or be injurious to the racial stock’”⁶; and,

Whereas, naming a building after President C.C. Little not only explicitly glorifies him and his association with the University of Michigan, but also implicitly endorses his ideas and ideology; and,

Whereas, this is only compounded upon by the C.C. Little Building’s close proximity to the Central Campus Transit Center - known colloquially as “C.C. Little”; and,

Whereas, a group of LSA faculty members, led by LSA Professor John Carson, which included LSA Professors Matthew Countryman, Martin Pernick, Alexandra Stern, and LSA senior Joshua Hasler have officially submitted a twenty page proposal on Friday, September 1, 2017 under the new University policies⁷ and procedures to rename the C.C. Little Building.⁸

Be it therefore resolved, LSA SG officially supports the proposal to rename the C.C. Little Building; and,

Be it further resolved, the sponsors of this resolution, in consultation with the LSA SG Executive Board, shall pen a statement to send, along with a copy of this resolution, to University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel, Vice President of Development Jerry May, Vice President of Student Life E. Royster Harper, Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion Robert Sellers, LSA Dean Andrew Martin, LSA Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education Angela Dillard, and LSA Associate Dean for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Fiona Lee, which shall be posted on the various LSA SG social media accounts and the LSA SG website; and,

Be it finally resolved, LSA SG shall send a copy of this resolution to members of the Central Student Government, Engineering Student Government, Rackham Student Government, the Pharmacy Student Government Council, the Residence Hall Association, all other student governments at the University of Michigan, and the UM Faculty Senate, and shall seek their support in this effort.

⁵ Clarence Cook Little Papers, Bentley Historical Library

⁶ <http://www.sfgate.com/opinion/article/Eugenics-and-the-Nazis-the-California-2549771.php>

⁷ <https://record.umich.edu/articles/u-m-defines-principles-process-building-renaming-requests>

⁸ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/administration/group-submits-official-request-rename-cc-little-building>
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BY_BduXhL06LeUhKN2UtS1k2Rkk/view