

**Taskforce on Naming of Craven Hall
Interim Report
December 2021**

Introduction:

Just as many other institutions of higher education have sought to understand the historical context and impact of various campus namings, so too was CSUSM called upon to examine the naming of Craven Hall. In spring 2021, The CSUSM Academic Senate passed Academic Senate Resolution (AS 769-20) in Support of Renaming of Craven Hall, Craven Circle, and Craven Road and Removal of the Bust of William Craven from the CSUSM Campus.

In spring 2021, President Ellen Neufeldt, CSUSM's fourth President, announced the creation of the Taskforce on Naming of Craven Hall to explore the complexity of Senator William A. Craven's relationship to CSUSM.

In the context of our own campus culture, mission and values, and within the frame of President Neufeldt's leadership, we launched an intentional process to undertake this task.

The Taskforce includes students, alumni, faculty, staff, and community members, some of whom were elected, and others appointed by various means which are described below.

Taskforce Membership:

The Taskforce membership draws from different constituencies affiliated with CSUSM. Members were identified and invited to participate through processes appropriate to their constituency group.

- President Neufeldt invited Drs. Patricia Prado-Olmos and Elizabeth Matthews to serve as co-chairs.
- Students were identified through an ASI call for volunteers.
- An alumni representative was identified through a call by the CSUSM Alumni Association.
- Provost Kemnitz invited faculty to submit their interest in serving. All faculty who expressed interest were invited to participate and include representation from tenure track and lecturer ranks as well as multiple Colleges and content areas.
- Staff representatives were identified through an election process organized by a staff committee.
- Community members representing two long standing campus-affiliated groups (Foundation Board & University Council) were invited to participate in addition to general community members.

The taskforce membership changed over the course of the semester. At the first meeting, members suggested adding tribal representatives. Subsequently, two tribal partners were invited to participate and joined the taskforce.

One staff member is retiring in December. A new staff representative was elected through the appropriate process. The retiring staff member has agreed to continue participation as a community member.

One area of representation is of deep concern to the co-chairs and members. The Taskforce considers student voice and representation to be critical to this process. One student representative found the time commitment to be interfering with the responsibilities of a graduating senior and thus felt compelled to withdraw. The co-chairs have made efforts to recruit and solicit additional student participation. As well, the co-chairs are working to include more student voice and participation in presentations/discussions with the Taskforce as a means to ensure student perspectives.

A current list of members is included at the end of this report.

Taskforce Charge

The Taskforce was charged in September 2021 and has worked to grapple with this important issue throughout the fall semester. This report provides a brief update regarding the efforts undertaken thus far, and impending plans for the spring semester. This report also serves as part of the historical campus record and narrative regarding Craven Hall.

President Neufeldt charged the Taskforce to undertake four (4) areas of investigation:

- ***Discover, document and analyze the historical record of William A. Craven's statements and actions as they relate to his past leadership roles and affiliations with CSUSM, our region and our state.***
- ***Analyze and build a common understanding among the Taskforce membership of the contemporary issues surrounding his association with CSUSM.***
- ***Develop opportunities for open and informed discussion with the internal and external campus community regarding the issue under consideration as it relates to our institutional mission and values.***
- ***Building on the results of an educational and information-gathering process, articulate the potential impacts of retaining, replacing or contextualizing the name and representation of Senator Craven at CSUSM with supporting evidence.***

Progress and current status:

The following narrative describes the work accomplished, provides a status update and future plans organized according to the Taskforce charge.

The Taskforce held eight meetings during the fall semester. Our 90-minute meetings were primarily held on Zoom to facilitate participation and support the health and safety of members.

For the initial meetings, the Taskforce partnered with the National Conflict Resolution Center (NCRC) to provide education on inclusive communication, advice on process moving forward, and for support to host listening sessions with constituent groups in the spring. We have benefited from the expertise and resources provided by two NCRC facilitators, Laura Kass Moreno and Cuez Rodriguez.

Discover, document and analyze the historical record of William A. Craven's statements and actions as they relate to his past leadership roles and affiliations with CSUSM, our region and our state.

- With the assistance of the Special Collections Librarian, and organized at our SharePoint site, the Taskforce has access to an extensive archive related to the controversy surrounding Craven's activities and statements, as well as campus reaction to those events in 1991 and 1993;
- The Taskforce has yet to closely study Senator Craven's efforts related to establishing the campus in 1989.

Analyze and build a common understanding among the Taskforce membership of the contemporary issues surrounding his association with CSUSM.

- Preliminary discussions have occurred about presentations and materials
- Additional discussion is needed, as we continue to review and work through relevant materials and presentations.

Develop opportunities for open and informed discussion with the internal and external campus community regarding the issue under consideration as it relates to our institutional mission and values.

- The Taskforce has benefited significantly from presentations and materials shared by Dr. Gerardo Gonzalez, who was active in responding to Craven's statements in the early 1990s; as well as by Dr. Michelle Ramos Pellicia, who shared her expertise regarding the profound significance of cultural identity, space and place. Students on the Taskforce and visitors to our meetings have also expressed deep concerns with regard to Craven's contemporary association with CSUSM and the mission of the University.
- With assistance from NCRC, the Taskforce will host and organize listening sessions in spring semester with community, faculty, students and staff

Building on the results of an educational and information-gathering process, articulate the potential impacts of retaining, replacing or contextualizing the name and representation of Senator Craven at CSUSM with supporting evidence.

- The Taskforce is still in the process of gathering and reviewing evidence.
- We anticipate we will focus on articulating the potential impacts in the second half of the spring semester.

Future work plan

- The Taskforce identified a major gap is hearing from individuals who are familiar with Senator Craven's work related to CSUSM. We are currently working with a community partner on reaching out to individuals with invitations to address the Taskforce in the spring semester.
- The Taskforce is very interested in hearing from Senator Craven's family and we are currently working on arranging a conversation with one or more family members.
- With support from our partners at the National Conflict Resolution Center, we are designing listening sessions to be held in February with students, faculty, staff and community members. We are mindful of safety concerns as well as facilitating as many individual voices as possible.
- We will undertake additional study, analysis as needed, and focus on addressing the fourth component of our charge in March.
- We intend to produce a full report by the end of May.

Submitted by:

Dr. Elizabeth Matthews and Dr. Patricia Prado-Olmos, Taskforce Co-Chairs

Taskforce on Naming of Craven Hall as of December 2021

- Elizabeth Matthews, Interim Dean, CHABSS (Co-Chair)
- Patricia Prado Olmos, Chief Community Engagement Officer (Co-Chair)
- Aswad Allen, Chief Diversity Officer
- Raye Clendening, Past President North County African American Women's Association (University Council Representative)
- Chris Devers (former Chair, Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians)
- Frank Foster, Executive Director at A Step Beyond, retired (Community Representative)
- Michael Geck, Work and Asset Management Systems Specialist, CSUSM (Staff Representative)
- Major General Anthony Jackson, USMC Retired (Foundation Board Representative)
- Richard Jaenisch (Alumni Representative)
- Carleen Kreider, Retired Community Leader (Foundation Board Representative)
- Renzo Lara, Director, Director Latin@/x Center, CSUSM (Student Affairs Representative)
- Scotty Lombardi, Senior Manager of Global Talent (University Council Representative)
- Brenda Miller, lecturer, School of Nursing (Faculty Representative)
- Joely Proudfit, Professor, American Indian Studies (Faculty Representative)
- Xuan Santos, Associate Professor of Sociology (Faculty Representative)
- Ricardo Scheller (Student Representative)
- Wendy Schlater (former Vice Chair, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians)
- Lourdes Shahamiri, Retired, (Community Representative)
- Mandie Thompson, Administrative Support Assistant, COBA (Staff Representative)
- Kimber Quinney, Assistant Professor, History (Faculty Representative)
- Sean Visintainer, Head of Special Collections