

Office of the President
December 11, 2001

Members, Board of Trustees:

NAMING OF UNIVERSITY BUILDING

Recommendation: that the new recreation building, presently under construction, and located adjacent to the Seaton Building be named the Bernard Johnson Student Recreation Center.

Background: Bernard Johnson, known as “Skeeter” Johnson committed most of his life to the University of Kentucky. He received his BA degree from UK in 1946 and his MS in 1949. Mr. Johnson began as an instructor in the Department of Health, Physical Education and Recreation (HPER) in 1946 and served for 31 years during which time he taught 39 different courses. He served as the Director of HPER Professional Curriculum, Director of the Recreation Curriculum and Director of the Departmental Service Program within HPER. Additionally he served as the Director of the UK Troupers for nearly 30 years. Mr. Johnson also served as the Director of the Campus Recreation Intramural Program and ultimately he became the Director of the UK Campus Recreation Program and served in that capacity for 13 years. Although he officially retired in 1982, Mr. Johnson continued to teach and serve the University community. He served as the leader and instructor of the Gerifitness Program that provided physical fitness programming for the UK Donovan Scholars Program and for older adults in the Lexington area and within the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Governor of the Commonwealth appointed Mr. Johnson to the Pacesetters Association and he traveled throughout the Commonwealth promoting physical activity for older adults as a leader and role model. Mr. Johnson received numerous awards and honors and was recognized for his outstanding service to the University, local community and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Among others, he received the Top Ten Teachers Award of the University of Kentucky, the Distinguished Service Medal for Youth from the Lexington YMCA, and the Kentucky Association from the Central Kentucky Officials Association. He also served on the Board of Directors for the YWCA for 22 years and on the Board of Directors for Spindletop Hall, Inc. He was active in the Bluegrass State Games and the Kentucky Special Olympics Program. Mr. Johnson remained professionally active and committed to helping others until his death in the spring of 2001.

In accordance with University policy AR II-1.1-6, the Committee on Naming University Buildings has made its recommendation to the Senior Vice President for Administration who recommends to the President and the Board of Trustees that the new recreation building be named the Bernard Johnson Student Recreation Center.

Action Taken: ☒ Approved ☐ Disapproved ☐ Other _____