



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

State University Plaza
Albany, New York 12246

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MEMORANDUM

November 5, 2015

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Nancy L. Zimpher, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Naming of the Football Stadium at the University at Albany

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the action taken by the University at Albany Council on September 25, 2015 naming the Football Stadium at the University at Albany, the “Tom & Mary Casey Stadium.”

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Resolved that the action taken by the University at Albany Council naming the football stadium at the University at Albany, the “Tom & Mary Casey Stadium” be, and hereby is, approved.

Background

The proposed resolution approves the September 25, 2015 decision of the University at Albany Council to name the football stadium at the University at Albany, the “Tom & Mary Casey Stadium.” The University at Albany Council’s action was taken in recognition of a \$10 million gift from The Bernard and Millie Children’s Foundation, which was established by the son of Bernard and Millie Duker, William Duker ’75, of Westerlo and New York City, his wife Sharon (Casey) Duker, and their son William “West” Duker. The gift will support the football stadium and other facilities, expand scholarships for student-athletes, and address additional priorities in athletics. The stadium will be named Tom & Mary Casey Stadium, in honor of Sharon (Casey) Duker’s parents. The Casey family has a long history of engagement with the University at Albany. Tom and

Mary's son, Thomas Casey, is a member of the Class of 1978 and their daughter, Melissa (Casey) Faas, earned a graduate degree with the Class of 2001. One grandchild, Meghan (Casey) Wilkinson, has a Bachelor's degree from the Class of 2009, while grandson Michael Faas is currently a freshman at the University.

The stadium was completed in September 2013 as part of the University's new multi-sport complex. Designed as a source of pride for the campus community, the region, and the University's 169,000 alumni, the stadium was funded through the New York State legislature and private support. The stadium's opening marked a signature moment for University at Albany athletics as its football program joined the Colonial Athletics Association (CAA), one of the nation's top NCAA Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) conferences.

The 8,500-seat facility features a scoreboard with a high-definition video display and point-source sound system behind the south end zone. In 2013, the stadium's playing surface was named "Bob Ford Field" in honor of Bob Ford, who served as head coach of the University's football team for 44 years, shepherding the program from its inception as a Division III program to its transition to Division I and admission into the CAA. The field will now be known as Bob Ford Field at Tom & Mary Casey Stadium.