MEMORANDUM

March 20, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Renaming Buildings at the State University of New York College at New Paltz

Action Requested

The proposed resolution approves the actions taken by the SUNY New Paltz College Council at its February 21, 2019 and March 6, 2019 meetings, respectively, to remove the names of Huguenot patentees from the Hasbrouck Residential Complex and to replace such names with alternate names with local meaning and geographical significance.

Resolution

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

Whereas at its February 21, 2019 meeting, the SUNY New Paltz College Council voted to remove the existing names from the Hasbrouck Residential Complex, including the buildings currently named Bevier Hall, Crispell Hall, Deyo Hall, DuBois Hall, Hasbrouck Dining Hall, and Lefevre Hall; and

Whereas at its March 6, 2019 meeting, the SUNY New Paltz College Council voted unanimously to rename the Hasbrouck Dining Hall as Peregrine Dining Hall, and to authorize the President to assign the remaining five buildings the names Mohonk Hall, Minnewaska Hall, Awosting Hall, Shawangunk Hall, and Ashokan Hall; and

Whereas pursuant to NYS Education Law §356, the SUNY New Paltz College Council has the authority to name buildings and grounds subject to the general management, supervision and control of the Board of Trustees; now, therefore, be it
Resolved that the actions taken by the SUNY New Paltz College Council at its February 21, 2019 and March 6, 2019 meetings, respectively, to remove the names of Huguenot patentees from the Hasbrouck Residential Complex and to replace such names with alternate names with local meaning and geographical significance be, and hereby are, approved.

**Background**

In August 2017, SUNY New Paltz President Donald P. Christian initiated a process to consider and study the names of the buildings in the Hasbrouck Residential Complex, and to determine whether these buildings should be renamed. These buildings – Bevier Hall, Crispell Hall, Deyo Hall, DuBois Hall, Hasbrouck Dining Hall, and Lefevre Hall – were named for the original Huguenot patentees, who were the first European settlers in New Paltz.

The Huguenot patentees and their descendants made significant contributions to education and civic life in New Paltz, including supporting the institutions that became SUNY New Paltz. However, as with many other Europeans who settled in New York in this time period, these families also had a history of owning enslaved Africans. In recent years, a national dialogue has developed over how to manage the ongoing acknowledgment of the historical legacy of slavery, including on college campuses. Accordingly, President Christian charged the SUNY New Paltz Diversity & Inclusion Council to conduct a comprehensive and inclusive conversation and study of this issue during the 2017-18 academic year.

The Diversity & Inclusion Council held multiple forums, soliciting broad input from students, faculty, staff, alumni, community members, Huguenot descendants and Historic Huguenot Street leadership. It educated the community about the campus history and studied how other colleges and universities have dealt with the legacy of slavery on their campuses. At the culmination of this process, the Diversity and Inclusion Council recommended that the names be removed from the Hasbrouck Residential Campus. President Christian endorsed this recommendation, which also has the strong support of the SUNY New Paltz Student Senate, Faculty Senate, and many individual departments.

At its November 1, 2018 meeting, the New Paltz College Council created a Study Group on Alternate Names for the Hasbrouck Building Complex that included College Council members, students, faculty, staff, alumni and a Historic Huguenot Street Board Member and charged the group with soliciting replacement names for the buildings via a campus-wide electronic survey sent to students, employees, alumni and community members, including Huguenot
descendants. The survey responses overwhelmingly favored names with local meaning, and the Study Group recommended replacement names consistent with the survey results. The replacement names ultimately selected by the New Paltz College Council were drawn from this recommended list of names with local meaning.

The College Council also recommended in its resolution dated February 21, 2019 that the College administration find other ways on campus to recognize the contributions of the Huguenot patentees and their descendants as well as the indigenous Munsee and the Africans who also lived in New Paltz, and to educate students and visitors about the enduring racial legacies of slavery.