MEMORANDUM

June 20, 2019

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Kristina M. Johnson, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Revocation of the Naming of the “John Kapoor Hall” Pharmacy Building at the State University of New York at Buffalo

Action Requested

The proposed resolution authorizes the revocation of the naming of the Pharmacy building at the State University of New York at Buffalo as “John and Editha Kapoor Hall.”

Resolution

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

Whereas by Resolution No. 2008-16 on May 13, 2008, the Board of Trustees approved the action of the University at Buffalo Council naming UB’s Pharmacy building “John and Editha Kapoor Hall;” and

Whereas on May 2, 2019, a federal court jury in Boston, Massachusetts determined that Mr. Kapoor had engaged in a racketeering conspiracy to profit by using bribes and fraud to facilitate the illicit distribution of a fentanyl-based pain medication known as Subsys, manufactured and sold by Insys Therapeutics Inc., a company founded by Mr. Kapoor and run by him in his capacity as CEO and Executive Chairman of the Board; and

Whereas Subsys was approved by the FDA to treat cancer patients suffering from intense episodes of breakthrough pain, but through the scheme devised by Mr. Kapoor and his codefendants, medical practitioners were encouraged to write prescriptions for large numbers of patients, most of whom had not been diagnosed with cancer; and

Whereas fentanyl is one of the most potent opioids available for human use, and poses a significant risk of misuse, abuse and addiction; and

...
Whereas Mr. Kapoor’s criminal conduct was designed to enrich himself at the expense of the patients who were needlessly exposed to the risks of fentanyl at a time when the opioid crisis is killing more than 130 people per day in the United States; and

Whereas Mr. Kapoor’s criminal conduct offends human decency, violates the core principles upon which the University was founded and runs counter to the standards of mutual respect and professionalism that the University expects from all members of its community; and

Whereas on June 3, 2019, the University at Buffalo Council approved a resolution revoking the naming of the Pharmacy building in the Kapoors’ honor, as the nature of Mr. Kapoor’s criminal conduct runs directly counter to the professional standards and ethical principles taught within UB’s School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that Resolution 2018-16 naming UB’s Pharmacy building “John and Editha Kapoor Hall” shall be revoked, as the criminal conduct with which Mr. Kapoor has been convicted is wholly antithetical to the University’s professional standards and ethical principles, and is injurious to the reputation of the State University of New York and its students.

Background

The naming of the Pharmacy building was approved by resolution of both the University at Buffalo Council and the Board of Trustees. The University at Buffalo Council has passed a resolution opting to revoke the naming. The Board of Trustees must take similar action to effectuate the revocation.