

Thursday, January 29, 2020

Dear Mike,

Again, many THANK YOU's to you and the Board for welcoming input on the name change consideration.

Thank you for the update on where the Board is in the process of weighing information.

I hope these 3 questions may be asked of the Board during their coming Board meeting in February.

Mike, having served as Director of the W & L University Store for 10 years (2003 - 2013),

I had the pleasure of meeting and talking with thousands of students, their parents, and returning alumni.

As Director of Licensing for that period, I worked with which marks of the University were in most demand by the W & L community.

I understand that many broad factors are being considered. I do hope the 35 members of the Board are considering answers to these 3 lesser issues, but these 3 practical questions:

1. Will the most popular mark of the W & L community....the TRIDENT disappear if Lee is removed from the name?

The TRIDENT with is an artistic interlocking design of the letters W and L. It has been worn for

over 100 years by thousands and thousands of our athletic teams. It is on the uniforms of the 24

current W & L teams. When I was at W & L, approximately 25% of the undergraduate student body

was participating in inter-collegiate sports. The thousands of parents who support their sons and daughters

proudly wear the TRIDENT. Of all of the University marks on items we sold in the University Store, the TRIDENT

was and is the most popular. Do our student athletes, the 24 coaches, and the alumni who proudly

wear the TRIDENT **understand that if LEE is removed, the TRIDENT would disappear?**

2. Will the GENERALS nickname be changed to the GENERAL?

Similarly, if LEE is removed, we will then only have one general. How would one refer to the GENERALS if there is only one general?

3. Will the official crest of the University have to be changed?

Both the University Lee Chapel museum and the University Store explains to all that the

official crest was created by combining elements of the Washington family crest and

the Lee family crest. If LEE is removed, would I be correct that the official crest would

remove the Lee elements? The official crest is part of most of the University's official documents (such as the diploma's, and official stationery).

Mike, thank you for allowing me to raise these 3 practical questions. Could you let me know if these three actions would occur if LEE is removed from the University's name? Would you please share these three questions with the 35 members of the Board?

Again, THANK YOU.

William Becker
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To: The W&L Community
From: Rector Mike McAlevey '86
Date: Jan. 28, 2021
Re: Update on the Board's Work

I hope this message finds you safe and healthy as we continue to grapple with the global pandemic.

On Feb. 5-6, Washington and Lee's Board of Trustees will convene virtually for our annual winter meeting. The special committee that we formed to assist the board in considering the petitions we received seeking change at the university, including the university's name, completed its work in December. The committee solicited widespread input from all of our constituencies, gathered and analyzed data, and consulted relevant experts. The full board is now considering the information and analysis compiled by the committee to make the decisions we believe are in the best long-term interest of the university.

At the outset of this work, we committed to a thorough, thoughtful, and inclusive process, and to taking the time to get things right. We originally estimated that this might take six months or more. I'm sure that many of you were hoping for answers in the near term. However, given the volume of information to consider and the magnitude of the decisions before us, the consensus of the trustees is that we need more time.

I understand that this news will be frustrating to those who see these matters as clear and straightforward, but any decision requires the careful balancing of a number of competing considerations. We have been working on this continuously since the summer, and we will take the time that is required to thoroughly evaluate decisions that have profound implications for W&L's future. While we have not imposed a new target date for any decisions, we are moving forward as expeditiously as possible.

Until our next update, we request your patience and your continued willingness to listen to and appreciate viewpoints that are different from your own. I commend to you the special section of the forthcoming W&L alumni magazine that provides a sense of the competing views on the questions before us and the passion with which

positions are held. As always, W&L's success depends on our ability to interact with each other respectfully and to trust that while our personal opinions may differ, we are united in our desire to ensure the future success of our university.