

NELSON MANDELA

UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTIONAL REGULATORY CODE (IRC) (Policies, Procedures, Rules etc.)

To be completed by initiator of policy/policy owner

1. TITLE	NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY NAMING AND RENAMING POLICY
2. APPROVING AUTHORITY: (Committee or Management Official)	MANCO and Council
3. FIELD OF APPLICATION: (All persons to whom policy applies)	All Nelson Mandela University campuses
4. COMPLIANCE OFFICER(S): (Persons responsible for ensuring policy implementation)	SeniorDirector: Communication and Stakeholder Liaison; Director: OT&E
5. STATUS OF POLICY/PROCEDURE etc. (New/Revised):	Review 1 August 2019
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8. DESIGNATION OF POLICY OWNER: (Person responsible for maintaining policy)	DeputyDirector: Arts, Culture and Heritage
9. NAME OF POLICY OWNER:	Michael Barry

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NAMING and RENAMING POLICY

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NELSON MANDELA UNIVERSITY

NAMING AND RENAMING POLICY

1. INTRODUCTION

Nelson Mandela University officially launched its new name on 20 July 2017 as part of the next phase in its journey to becoming a great African university. It is prudent that the University develop a naming and renaming policy that will be embedded in the ethos and values of Nelson Mandela.

This **naming and renaming policy** document provides a progressive guide for both revisiting existing names and naming of future buildings, identified spaces and roads more in keeping with the vision, mission and values of the University.

A new entity needs a new identity and therefore new names would be an inevitable outcome of such a process. The general transformation imperative within the University would also be advanced by addressing the issue of naming and renaming. Changing names can be an important visual indicator of broader transformation interventions.

2. PREAMBLE

The official name change to the Nelson Mandela University presents an ideal opportunity for revisiting the names of existing buildings, streets, campuses and other named features and components of the University.

Physical infrastructure in the form of buildings is an important part of a university, and constitutes and facilitates the academic projects, namely the teaching, learning, research, engagement, student and staff campus life and public experience. It is

where teaching, learning and research content is produced, where the institutional culture gets its legitimacy to navigate the movement and thinking of human beings interacting with it daily for the enriching purpose of producing and disseminating knowledge. Buildings and university spaces cannot carry empty names like “Building X or Y”. Such names are devoid of meaning and do not possess anything of significance about the university today and what it is becoming. It reflects nothing about the meaning and significance of Nelson Mandela, and about the empowering purpose of higher education in South Africa and Africa for that matter. Thus, the policy on naming needs to be revised and replaced with a progressive naming framework reflective of the times, that will guide the review of existing names and naming of future buildings and places more in keeping with the vision of the University, the ethos and values of Nelson Mandela and the South African Constitution.

The revised policy should be sufficiently comprehensive so as to accommodate the naming and/or renaming of:

- Campuses
- Streets, Roads, Avenues
- Buildings
- Seminar rooms and executive boardrooms
- Sports fields, and
- Components of the University
- Symbols and rituals that are part of the university culture

3. GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The principles guiding the naming and renaming process should draw upon, and be consistent with, the following:

3.1 Vision, Mission and Values of Nelson Mandela University

Naming and renaming needs to accord with the vision, mission and values of the Nelson Mandela University. These are:

Vision:

To be a dynamic African university, recognised for its leadership in generating cutting-edge knowledge for a sustainable future.

Mission:

To offer a diverse range of life-changing educational experiences for a better world.

Values:

Transformation

Diversity

Social justice and equality

Ubuntu

Integrity (including responsibility and accountability)

Respect for the natural environment

3.2 Constitution of the Republic of South Africa

In accordance with the South African Constitution we recognize the injustices of the past and honour those who suffered for justice and freedom in our land, we reject all forms of unfair discrimination and affirm our commitment to a naming policy that is compatible with the founding Constitutional values of human dignity, redress, achievement of equality and the advancement of human rights and freedoms; non-racialism and non-sexism; democracy, accountability, responsiveness and transparency.

3.3 Ethos of our Namesake

As befitting an institution of higher education named after one of the greatest statesmen of the 20th century, the University needs to ensure it lives up to his ethos. In aligning with these, it is important to look at the life of Nelson Mandela holistically. The essence of this ethos and value are reflected in the qualities he espoused over a lifetime, and these include:

Honesty	Respect	Internationalism
Integrity	Patriotism	Pioneering
Courage	Ubuntu	Intellectual
Compassion	Africanist	Visionary
Resilience	Collective leadership	Radical
Tolerance	Nation-building	Education
Selflessness	Respect Tradition & Modernity	Humility
Service	People & Community-Centered	Comradeship
Transformation	Freethinker, Challenging convention	

4. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES OF THE NAMING AND RENAMING POLICY

The context of higher education in South Africa has changed considerably since the existing naming policy was drafted. The student profile has become decidedly activist and radically confrontational against all forms of racism, class and gender discrimination, which are attributes that can be broadly associated with Nelson Mandela in his youth. The #RhodesMustFall and #FeesMustFall protests placed the transformation of the higher education sector firmly in the spotlight with two core demands: free higher education and the decolonisation of the curriculum and the academy. The latter also includes changing the names of places and spaces at the University which are associated with oppressive and discriminatory practices of the names, and embarking on a renaming and naming project to ensure University names and places recognises, respect and honour, in accordance with the South African constitution, all people and cultures of the country, in ways that resonates with the values and ethos of Nelson Mandela, our icon and namesake.

Against the above background, the following points seek to highlight the general purpose of a Naming Policy.

The policy thus assists:

- 4.1 to refine and re-imagine the identity and positioning of the various campuses of the university.

- 4.2 to look at the context within which the new University operates and how relevant the envisaged new names would be in the promotion of Nelson Mandela University's Transformation Agenda;
- 4.3 to position the University both internally and externally as a Change Agent which embraces values which uphold and respect human dignity and promotes equality for all;
- 4.4 to motivate staff, students, alumni and the external stakeholders to identify with the new Nelson Mandela University through its Naming Policy;
- 4.5 to re-imagine a new inclusive institutional culture where symbols and names are representative of the institutional vision and values.

5. CRITERIA TO BE USED

In considering naming or renaming building and places, the responsible governance structure should utilise the following guidelines:

- 5.1 Ensure that the selected names redress imbalances of the past which seek to affirm the indigenous peoples and history of the provinces in which the University is located.
- 5.2 Utilise names of those who contributed significantly to indisputably advance the cause of the people of South Africa and the cause of the country and continent in ways that resonates with the vision, values and strategies of Nelson Mandela University.
- 5.3 Places of significance and meaning, which accords and resonates with the vision, values and strategies of Nelson Mandela University.
- 5.4 Moments or events in our history whose significance and meaning accords and resonates with the vision, values and strategies of Nelson Mandela University.
- 5.5 Geographical features relevant to the University whose significance and meaning accords and resonates with the vision, values and strategies of Nelson Mandela University.

- 5.6 Indigenous flora and fauna whose significance and meaning accords and resonates with the vision, values and strategies of Nelson Mandela University.
- 5.7 In considering the names of people, they should have an identifiable national and international significance; and the net should be cast broadly to include the fields of culture, politics, sport, and education; and must reflect race and gender equity. Individuals under consideration should embody the values and principles articulated above.
- 5.8 Names chosen should as far as possible serve to build social cohesion at the University and inspire present and future generations.
- 5.9 Consideration should be given to the function or feature being named and names selected must be appropriate to this function or feature.
- 5.10 The primary users, at the time, of a building or place being named or renamed should be given opportunity to make inputs on its name.

6. OPERATIONALISATION OF THE POLICY

Having taken into account all of the above, as well as the values embraced by Nelson Mandela University, the ideals, which this policy seeks to promote, can be achieved through the implementation of the following:

- 6.1 Review and amend the existing naming and renaming policy.
- 6.2 Develop a coordinated plan of action for naming and renaming.
- 6.3 Establish measures to proceed with the work of naming and renaming buildings spaces campuses roads and list all the work to be completed
- 6.4 Audit existing names to identify those in need of renaming.
- 6.5 Research the legal implications of renaming buildings with names that might have been associated with donations or sponsorship in the past.
- 6.6 Identify features or buildings without names where names are needed.
- 6.7 Identify new features or buildings for naming.
- 6.8 Advocate the concept of naming and renaming to all stakeholders.
- 6.9 Identify relevant stakeholders and constituents.

- 6.10 Ensure consensus and buy-in from as wide a range of stakeholders as possible
- 6.11 Locate the name change process and work under the Arts, Culture and Heritage Committee (ACHC) as a formal MANCO committee of the University.

7. NAMING AND RENAMING WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

In terms of this policy, ACHC Naming and Renaming sub-committee is to be established to oversee the naming and renaming process and drafting of an implementation plan.

The sub-committee will report to the ACHC. The practical work of the subcommittee must be coordinated by the Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage Deputy Director.

The mandate of the subcommittee is to ensure due process is followed to the point where new names and/or name changes are proposed to the ACHC to process further.

7.1 Terms of Reference of the Naming and Renaming Sub-Committee

The Naming and Renaming sub-committee of the ACHC shall have as its terms of reference the following:

- 7.1.1 To consistently apply the tenets of the Naming and Renaming Policy in the naming and/or renaming of campuses, buildings, spaces and streets and to make recommendations to the ACHC.
- 7.1.2 The sub-committee shall develop a procedure for consultation on naming and renaming so as to act consistently in the envisaged manner.
- 7.1.3 To follow a due process of consultation with both internal and external stakeholder formations and thereafter submit its proposals together with

recommendation to the ACHC, for the ACHC to consider and if adopted, for submission to MANCO and to Council for consideration and approval where applicable.

7.1.4 The Naming and Renaming sub-committee shall be mandated to identify and consult on the re-naming of those buildings and/or halls, which currently have names which may not be in accord with the tenets and principles of Nelson Mandela University.

7.1.5 The Naming and Renaming sub-committee, shall, within the delegated powers vested upon it by ACHC and MANCO act pro-actively in guiding the process of arriving at proposals for the naming those buildings, halls, streets, etc which may currently be nameless and/or considered to be mis-named.

7.2 Naming and Renaming Sub-Committee be constituted as follows:

- (a) Dean of Students
- (b) Senior Director: CSL(Chairperson)
- (c) SRC - 2 Representatives
- (d) Representative of the Office of the Vice Chancellor
- (e) Representative of the Deans Forum
- (f) Director: CANRAD
- (g) Deputy Director: Arts Culture and Heritage (Convener)
- (h) Director: Transformation Monitoring and Evaluation
- (i) Other invited members

As the practical work of this sub-committee is vested in the office of the Deputy Director for Arts, Culture and Heritage, secretarial and operational support will be rendered by that office. The Deputy Director will, moreover, be accountable for ensuring the sub-committee meets and undertakes its responsibilities.

8. AMENDMENT OF THE POLICY

Recognising the fact that to create an affirming and welcoming environment is an evolving process, this policy will be reviewed and/or amended as and when new circumstances dictate the need for effecting such changes and/or amendments.

The responsibility of effecting such amendments rests with the office of the Department of Arts, Culture and Heritage

Any and all amendments are subject to the approval of MANCO and Council on recommendation of the Arts, Culture & Heritage Committee.