

**Global Studies and Cultural Geography**

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MEMO

DATE: April 21, 2016

TO: Dr. Sidney A. McPhee  
President, MTSU

FROM: Derek W. Frisby  
Chair, Presidential Task Force to Reconsider the Naming of Forrest Hall

RE: Recommendation of the Presidential Task Force to Reconsider the Naming of MTSU's Forrest Hall

In October 2015, you appointed a task force composed of university stakeholders to determine if a name change was necessary for MTSU's Forrest Hall. The task force was asked to provide one of three recommendations to the President: 1) to keep the name; 2) to keep the name with added historical context; or 3) to change the name. The task force conducted several public forums and then deliberated on the various issues concerning the building's name honoring Confederate cavalryman, Lieutenant General Nathan Bedford Forrest.

The task force recommends to change the name of Forrest Hall. This recommendation was reached by a majority of the task force members; however, a significant minority expressed their opinions that the name should remain or remain with context.

As we have discussed, if you accept the task force recommendation for a name change, then a waiver for such action must be requested pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 4, Chapter 1, Part 4, "The Tennessee Heritage Preservation Act of 2016." The task force stands ready to assist in the preparation of a report to accompany this waiver request. Additionally, if you determine "to keep the name, but with added historical context," the task force is prepared to assist your office in determining the appropriate historical contextualization to be added.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as the chair of this distinguished panel. I believe each member has demonstrated an extraordinary dedication to this task. I relied extensively upon their constructive criticism, intellectual input, and collegiality during this process. The entire university staff accommodated our meetings and requests for information in a professional and efficient manner. Furthermore, I want to express my appreciation and admiration for the assistance of Jimmy Hart, director of MTSU News and Media Relations. He was an invaluable part of this team and often went above and beyond his assigned duties, and always in a manner consistent with our "True Blue" values.

I am available anytime to discuss the task force's recommendations if you need additional information or clarification.