

Last fall, President Bacow created a committee to articulate the principles that should govern the University's consideration of requests that buildings, spaces, programs, professorships or other University entities be renamed ([see charge and membership here](#)). As part of its deliberations, the Committee is [seeking the views of the broader Harvard community](#). We would like to invite you to take advantage of one or more of the means we are establishing to gather your ideas.

- 1) All members of the Harvard community, including students, faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows, and alumni, are invited to send written comments to the Committee. All comments will be reviewed carefully by members of the committee. Please [click here](#) to share your thoughts.
- 2) Representatives from the Committee will hold open meetings for staff and postdoctoral fellows on Friday, March 12 at 12:00pm, and Monday, March 22 at 4:00pm. Please visit the [Committee's website](#) register to attend one of these sessions.

We will look forward to hearing whatever ideas relevant to our charge you wish to share but would be particularly grateful for any reflections on the following questions fundamental to our work.

- 1) How do buildings, landmarks, and other named entities factor into your personal experience and sense of belonging at Harvard? Please offer examples, if possible.
- 2) What factors and University values are most important to consider when deciding whether to rename an entity on campus? How should we take account of and balance both a namesake's positive contributions and their failures and flaws? How do we understand these in light of the era in which the namesake lived? In light of the era in which a name was bestowed?
- 3) How should we ensure that renaming does not result in erasing past history? What are the relative advantages and disadvantages of removing a name versus contextualizing the history of the namesake? What factors would you consider in determining whether to do one or the other?

Thank you in advance for your assistance on these questions, which are so important to Harvard's identity and purpose, to its history and its future.