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University of Cape Town Task Team on the Naming of Buildings, Rooms and Spaces and Roads

Call for Comments on the names of buildings

The Task Team on the Naming of Buildings, Rooms, Spaces and Roads was established by the University of Cape Town Council in 2015 to:

- Conduct or commission an audit, assessment and analysis of the names of buildings, rooms, spaces and roads that may be seen to recognise or celebrate colonial oppressors and/or which may be offensive or controversial; and
- Seek comment and opinion from members of the university and other interested and/or affected parties on these names.

During 2015 the following buildings that might be considered for renaming were identified by members of the UCT community:

- Jameson Memorial Hall
- Smuts Hall
- Beattie Building
- Wernher Beit
- Otto Beit Building

The Task Team is inviting comments from the UCT community in respect of proposals for or against the renaming of these buildings.

The Task Team further invites proposals from the UCT community for proposals for the renaming of other buildings which may be seen to recognise or celebrate colonial oppressors and/or which may be offensive or controversial. A register of the names of buildings and the history behind these names can be found on the [UCT website](#).

The Task Team will use the following procedure in assessing comments and proposals:

- Legal opinion and heritage implications: establish whether there are any legal or heritage implications in a possible name change;
- History of the name: establish the significance of the name;

- Moral question: what circumstances necessitate the change in the name of a building? Should UCT, for instance, return the amount donated to donors?
- The Task Team will construct a proposal for the name change as well as a counterargument, after which the comments and views of the UCT community will be canvassed;
- Once the above has been completed, recommendations will be submitted to the Naming of Buildings Committee for recommendation to Council.

Comments and proposals should be motivated and sent to:

Task Team on the Naming of Buildings, Rooms, Spaces and Roads
For Attention: Marius Lund
Room 142, Bremner Building, Lover's Walk, Rondebosch
E-mail: marius.lund@uct.ac.za

The closing date for comments and proposals is at noon on 30 March 2016.

Dr Maanda Mulaudzi
Chair of the Task Team on the Naming of Buildings, Rooms, Spaces and Roads