

(Received by email May 21, 2021)

Dear Dr. Dunn and members of Legacy Review Committee,

First, thank you for your service in engaging in the challenge to understand the context of T. H. Huxley as the namesake of my College.

I am a co-author, along with Wayne Landis, Steve Hollenhorst, and David Leaf, of the editorial letter recently published in the Planet Magazine (<https://theplanetmagazine.net/op-ed-standing-up-to-anti-evolutionism-4cd26d17133a>) regarding concerns about some of the materials the Committee has been considering as part of its process. Dr. Landis has submitted that letter to the Committee for its consideration. As an addendum to that letter, I am providing a list of current and former Western staff and faculty who have provided their endorsement of the letter in the past two days. Note that while the majority of these are members of Huxley College, word quickly spread to others prominent in science education who also wished to be listed as endorsers.

As endorsers, we strongly believe:

1. The Legacy Review Committee should not recommend a mandatory de-naming of Huxley College. As is indicated by the editorial letter to the Planet and substantiated by the letter submitted by the National Center for Science Education to the Committee, de-naming has far broader implications than a simple change in the name. A recommendation that calls for de-naming will be claimed as a major win by the insidious, media-savvy anti-science, anti-evolution factions, exacerbated by the national prominence of the College as one of the first to be established for the purpose of studying the environment; and
2. The College, after 50 years of existence, and the University should initiate a year-long process to focus on how to build a more inclusive and relatable identity. This process should include consideration of the proposition to re-name the College, foster understanding of the complex legacy of the College that has brought us to this point, and identify profound changes that are needed to build on our commitment to being a diverse, supportive community of teaching and learning about the environment.

Name and position

Robin Matthews, Professor Emeritus, Huxley College

Steve Hollenhorst Professor & Dean, Huxley College

Gerry Prody, Professor, Dept. of Chemistry

Wayne Landis, Professor, Huxley College

David Wallin, Professor & Department Chair, Huxley College

Diane Knutson, Professional Staff, Huxley College

David Leaf, Professor, Dept. of Biology

Wendy Walker, Faculty Emeritus, Huxley College

Phaedra Beckert, Associate Director of University Development, Huxley College

John Miles, Professor Emeritus & former Dean, Huxley College  
Nancy Bluestein-Johnson, Professional Staff, Huxley College  
Nick Zaferatos, Professor, Huxley College  
Brooke Bannerman, Instructor, Huxley College  
Erika McPhee-Shaw, Professor, Huxley College  
Burt Webber, Professor Emeritus, Huxley College  
Grace Wang, Professor & Department Chair, Huxley College  
Leo Bodensteiner, Professor, Huxley College  
Andy Bunn, Professor, Huxley College  
Ruth Sofield, Professor, Huxley College  
Brad Smith, Professor Emeritus & former Dean, Huxley College  
Rebecca Bunn, Professor, Huxley College  
Ed Weber, Graduate Program Coordinator, Huxley College  
Dave Knutson, Professional Staff, Huxley College  
Don Burgess, Professor, Secondary/Science Education  
George Pinky Nelson, Professor Emeritus, Physics/Science Education  
Scott Wilkinson, Professional Staff, Huxley College  
Brooke Love, Assoc. Professor, Huxley College  
Joel Swisher, Director, Institute for Energy Studies  
Linda Luttrell, Operations Manager, Huxley College

Sincerely,

Leo Bodensteiner  
Professor  
Environmental Sciences