



**RESOLUTION NO. 2021-07**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF  
WESTERN WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY**

**MAINTAINING THE NAME OF HAGGARD HALL**

**WHEREAS**, Western Washington University is committed to providing access to transformational higher education for the people of the State of Washington, pursuing justice and equity in its policies and practices, and supporting an inclusive and welcoming campus environment that celebrates the dignity and value of all students, faculty, and staff; and

**WHEREAS**, at the start of the Winter Quarter of 2021, President Sabah Randhawa charged a Legacy Review Task Force composed of faculty, staff, students, and alumni to review the history and significance of building and college names at Western Washington University, and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees as to whether any names warrant consideration for removal; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legacy Review Task Force submitted its report and recommendations in June of 2021 and has the gratitude and appreciation of the Board of Trustees for its efforts on behalf of the institution; and

**WHEREAS**, William Wade Haggard (1892-1977) served as president of Western from 1939 to 1959, the longest tenure of any president; and

**WHEREAS**, Haggard guided the institution through the Second World War, first witnessing a decline in student numbers, and the rise in enrollment that followed; and

**WHEREAS**, during Haggard's 20-year tenure he oversaw a period of institutional transformation from a normal school, the primary purpose of which was to educate K-8 teachers, to a College of Education for educating K-12 teachers, laying the groundwork for further transition to becoming a liberal arts college; and

**WHEREAS**, following the tumultuous firing of his predecessor, President Charles Fisher, Haggard restored morale and confidence among the faculty, relationships with the community, and enhanced the reputation of the institution with a series of summer conferences led by renowned educators from across the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Haggard can be credited with hiring and supporting faculty members who become critical to Western's growth and development over the course of his 20 years of service, increasing faculty from 61 to 137, and the hiring of Western's first African American faculty member, Eunice Day Lee, in 1959; and

**WHEREAS**, Haggard viewed the construction of a Science Building as a critical step in the evolution of Western from being a College of Education to a State College, taking a deep personal interest in the building when planning began in 1954, and personally taking the project to the Legislature in 1957, where he was able to secure funding for its design, construction, and outfitting; and

**WHEREAS**, this building, originally known as the Haggard Hall of Science, was named in his honor in 1960; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legacy Review Task Force report expressed concerns about Haggard appearing in Native American attire with two students for a school newspaper photograph in 1953; and

**WHEREAS**, there is no context explaining how or why Haggard came to be in the picture, and no evidence that he held discriminatory views about Native Americans, or that he used his office and authority to enact such views; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legacy Review Task Force report expressed concerns about a lack of evidence that Haggard publicly spoke out against the internment of Western's sole Japanese American student by Executive Order 9066 in 1942; and

**WHEREAS**, the internment of Japanese Americans during World War II was a gross injustice and an enduring stain on the national conscience, denounced at the time by only a handful of elected officials; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees recognizes the complexities of evaluating an individual's legacy, and that there are a great many contextualizing factors and nuances involved in the interpretation and assessment of an individual's statements and behavior in their time and place; and

**WHEREAS**, William Wade Haggard, in addition to being Western's longest-serving president, was among its most effective and influential, his contributions to the mission and development of the institution far outweighing his engagement in actions which may be considered insensitive in light of today's values and social norms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees recognizes that while the names of campus features have powerful symbolic value, these considerations are separate from the need for continued, mission-critical focus on advancing concrete, measurable efforts to increase inclusive success for underrepresented students, faculty, and staff;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University, that Haggard Hall shall continue to be named for William Wade Haggard.

**PASSED AND APPROVED** by the Board of Trustees of Western Washington University at its meeting on December 9, 2021.

ATTEST:



John M. Meyer, Chair



D. Chase Franklin, Vice Chair