

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-009

**A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSAL TO RENAME THE CLARENCE COOK
LITTLE SCIENCE BUILDING**

WHEREAS, the College of Literature, Science, and Arts (hereafter LSA) building located at 1100 North University Avenue is currently named the Clarence Cook Little Science Building (hereafter C.C. Little Building) after University of Michigan President Emeritus Clarence Cook Little (hereafter President C.C. Little); **AND**

WHEREAS, the naming of this building after President C.C. Little has been a controversial topic of debate on campus for many years¹; **AND**

WHEREAS, there have been several protests since the beginning of the 2017-2018 academic year regarding the C.C. Little Building, including blocking of the Central Campus Transit Center (hereafter CCTC) which is located in front of the C.C. Little Building and is colloquially known as “C.C. Little”² on Monday September 25th, protesting at a panel held by LSA Student Government to encourage campus dialogue on the issue of C.C. Little on Tuesday September 26th³, and the defacement of the C.C. Little Building sign⁴; **AND**

WHEREAS, while President of the University of Michigan, C.C. Little utilized his position to openly advocate for increased eugenics research, education, administration and other eugenics ideas, including but not limited to, forced sterilizations, birth control, and restrictive immigration laws on those deemed “unfit” during his time on the Board of the American Eugenics

¹ Keller, et. al. (2015, December 7). Roundtable: What’s in a name? *The Michigan Daily*.

<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/viewpoints/roundtable-whats-name> &

Korpela, P. (2016, April 17). Op-Ed: Questioning C.C. Little’s legacy. *The Michigan Daily*.

<https://www.michigandaily.com/section/viewpoints/op-ed-cc-little-naming-buildings-eugenics> &

Jones, M. (2017, April 6). At the University of Michigan, confronting controversy to move forward. *Detroit Free Press*. <http://www.freep.com/story/opinion/contributors/2017/04/06/university-michigan-confronting-controversy/100134836/>

² Beresford, C. and Harmon, M. (2017, September 25). Students protest last week’s racist incidents, block bus routes. *The Michigan Daily*. <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/campus-life/students-protest-last-weeks-racist-incidents-block-bus-routes> &

Moran, D. (2017, September 25). Students protest racism, building name on University of Michigan campus. *MLive*. http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/09/protesters_block_bus_terminal.html

³ Shaikh, A. and Showen, M. (2017, September 26). Protestors take to LSA SG panel on C.C. Little’s renaming. *The Michigan Daily*. <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/student-government/protestors-take-lsa-sg-panel-cc-littles-renaming> & Slagter, M. (2017, September 28). UMich protestors demand change of building name honoring ex-president. *MLive*. http://www.mlive.com/news/ann-arbor/index.ssf/2017/09/umich_students_call_for_name_c.html

⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/students4justice/photos/a.1063651303751521.1073741829.1035911419858843/1614801005303212/?type=3&theater>

Society⁵; **AND**

WHEREAS, the definition of “eugenics” is, “the study of or belief in the possibility of improving the qualities of the human species or a human population, especially by such means as discouraging reproduction by persons having genetic defects or presumed to have inheritable undesirable traits,”⁶; **AND**

WHEREAS, while President of the Third Race Betterment Conference, which was held at Dr. Kellogg’s sanatorium in Battle Creek, Michigan, President C.C. Little used his position as University of Michigan President to get speakers to give talks on “Sterilization of the Feeble Minded in Michigan,” “The Menace of the Melting Pot Myth,” “The Practical Application of Eugenic Principles,” “Sterilization in California - A Study of Patients Coming to California State Institutions for Sterilization Only,” “The Menace of the Half-Man,” and “A Better and Healthier Man”⁷; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Third Race Betterment Conference, which C.C. Little was the president of, published reports using derogatory and racist language, asserting that “a mixture with the definitely poorer stock, physically or mentally, could not possibly be beneficial, or harmless... This touched intimately on the problem of the mixture of the American white with the American negro. There are still some benevolent minds who would like to see all men, white and black, potentially equal.”⁸; **AND**

WHEREAS, this conference C.C. Little led, as president, defended the belief that “the Tasmanians, the Hottentots, and the South African Bushment have gone or are going out entirely... [because] they were too undesirable for mixture - to survive.”⁹, which, in the opinion of the authors establishes the racist attitudes C.C. Little held in addition to his conference's claims that “society can do something to help. [It] can suppress the degenerate and the unfit, restrict to a minimum the immigration of those racial stocks that are inimical to the Race Betterment plan.”¹⁰; **AND**

WHEREAS, C.C. Little said himself, in an address to the conference, that he was shocked when the state of Michigan reacted to his idea of “contraception and [birth control] for the care of [their] defectives and for the prevention of

⁵ The Power of Place-Naming: C.C. Little, Eugenics, and the University of Michigan - event on Tuesday April 17th, 2017

⁶ <http://www.dictionary.com/browse/eugenics>

⁷ Clarence Cook Little Papers, Bentley Historical Library

⁸ John Harvey Kellogg, *Proceedings of the Third Race Betterment Conference* (Battle Creek, Michigan: 1928), 84.

⁹ Kellogg, 84.

¹⁰ Kellogg, 261.

unlimited birth of defective types of human individuals."¹¹; **AND**

WHEREAS, President C.C. Little's tenure ended after only four years with his resignation, with President C.C. Little noting his ineffectivity as President in his resignation letter, writing, "For some time two things have become increasingly apparent: First - that my methods of handling situations dealing with interests of private donors, political interests, 'local' interests, and alumnae interests, are not consistent with policies which the Board of Regents deems wise. Second - That I shall, I hope, be more effective in scientific research and teaching than in administration,"¹²; **AND**

WHEREAS, during his tenure, President C.C. Little served on the board of the American Eugenics Society, becoming its President shortly after he left the University in 1929, where he helped influence policies that would be endorsed and utilized by radical groups in other nations, including the Nazi party in Germany; **AND**

WHEREAS, SFGATE, a local San Francisco Bay Area online news outlet writing about the connections between the American Eugenics Movement and the Nazi Party, wrote that "Hitler proudly told his comrades just how closely he followed the progress of the American eugenics movement. 'I have studied with great interest,' he told a fellow Nazi, 'the laws of several American states concerning prevention of reproduction by people whose progeny would, in all probability, be of no value or be injurious to the racial stock'"¹³; **AND**

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the authors that naming a building after President C.C. Little not only explicitly glorifies him and his association with the University of Michigan, but also implicitly endorses his ideas and ideology; **AND**

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the authors that this is only compounded upon by the C.C. Little Building's close proximity to the CCTC, known colloquially as "C.C. Little"; **AND**

WHEREAS, a group of LSA faculty members, led by LSA Professor John Carson, including LSA Professors Matthew Countryman, Martin Pernick, and Alexandra Stern as well as LSA senior Joshua Hasler have officially submitted a twenty page proposal¹⁴ on Friday, September 1, 2017 under the new University

¹¹ Kellog, 13.

¹² "Dr. Little Resigns as President of the University," *The Michigan Alumnus*, Vol. 35 no. 16: 1/26/1929

¹³ Black, E. (2003, November 9). Eugenics and the Nazis -- the California Connection. *San Francisco Gate*.
<http://www.sfgate.com/opinion/article/Eugenics-and-the-Nazis-the-California-2549771.php>

¹⁴ C.C. Little Building Name Change Request
https://drive.google.com/file/d/0By_BduXhL06LeUhKN2UtS1k2Rkk/view

policies¹⁵ and procedures to rename the C.C. Little Building¹⁶; **AND**

WHEREAS, a petition created by LSA Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education Angela Dillard to support the proposal to rename the C.C. Little Building has garnered several hundred signatures¹⁷; **AND**

WHEREAS, LSA Student Government passed a resolution on Wednesday September 20th and released a statement in support of renaming the C.C. Little Building¹⁸; **AND**

WHEREAS, Rackham Student Government voted to co-sponsor the LSA Student Government resolution on Thursday October 5th in support of renaming the C.C. Little Building; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, Central Student Government (CSG) officially supports the proposal to rename the C.C. Little Building; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, CSG shall submit a statement supporting the renaming of the C.C. Little Building, along with a copy of this resolution, to University of Michigan President Mark Schlissel, Vice President of Development Jerry May, Vice President of Student Life E. Royster Harper, and Vice Provost for Equity and Inclusion Robert Sellers, which shall be posted on the various CSG social media accounts and the CSG website.

Authors

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Sponsors

¹⁵ Fitzgerald, R. (2017, January 23). U-M defines principles, process for building renaming requests. *The University Record*. <https://record.umich.edu/articles/u-m-defines-principles-process-building-renaming-requests>

¹⁶ Basha, R. (2017, September 2). Group submits official request to rename C.C. Little building. *The Michigan Daily*. <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/administration/group-submits-official-request-rename-cc-little-building>

¹⁷ Petition Debating C.C. Little Past and Present at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/c-c-little-building-name>

¹⁸ LSA Student Government Statement Regarding the Clarence Cook Science Building. <https://lsa.umich.edu/content/dam/lsag-assets/lsag-slidehow/LSA%20SG%20CC%20Little%20Statement.jpg> & LSA Student Government Resolution F2017.06 Supporting the Proposal to Rename the Clarence Cook Science Building. <https://lsa.umich.edu/content/dam/lsag-assets/lsag-docs/F-2017/R%20F2017.06%20CC%20Little%20Renaming%20Resolution.pdf>

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President's Approval

Anushka Sarkar

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on _____

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on _____

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ Date: _____

Signature Necessary: _____ Signature Received By _____: _____