

SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF REGENTS

Full Board

AGENDA ITEM: H

DATE: October 14-15, 2009

SUBJECT: Black Hills State University-Ratification of an agreement to name a newly constructed courtyard as the Thomas and Judy Flickema Courtyard

Black Hills State University requests ratification of its oral agreement to name a newly constructed courtyard between the BHSU library and administration buildings as the Thomas and Judy Flickema Courtyard.

The newly created courtyard area contains the main entrance to the Admissions office and the new Woodburn entrance for access to the elevator. Prior to the courtyard project, the area consisted of a loading dock with crumbling stairs, a dead-end asphalt road, and garbage cans. Such disheveled surroundings created the wrong first impression for prospective students, their parents, or other visitors to campus.

The project demolished the old loading dock, asphalt road, and curbs and replaced it with gathering spaces, stamped concrete walkways, shrubbery, plantings, trees, and a seat wall. The new courtyard creates an appealing gathering space for activities such as campus tours, theater receptions, and informal study areas for students.

Board Policy No. 1:27 reaffirms South Dakota’s “long-standing tradition of naming institutional facilities ... in recognition of persons or entities who have made important contributions to enable or to advance the missions of the institutions.” Section 1, in particular, provides that:

1. When naming a facility or programmatic unit for a person, family, or organization where there is no gift, the proposed honoree shall have achieved distinction in one or more of the following ways:

(continued)

RECOMMENDED ACTION OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ratify the oral agreement between Black Hills State University and Dr. Thomas and Mrs. Judy Flickema to permit the use of their names by BHSU to designate a newly constructed courtyard between the BHSU library and administration buildings as the Thomas and Judy Flickema Courtyard.

- A. serving the university in an academic or administrative capacity with high distinction, or
- B. by contributing in other exceptional ways to the welfare and reputation of the university, to education, or to the community in general.

Dr. Flickema served BHSU as president for 11 years, from 1995 to 2005. Dr. Flickema adhered to Thomas Jefferson's dictum that the object of public architecture "is to improve the taste of my countrymen, to increase their reputation, to reconcile them to the rest of the world, and procure them its praise."¹ Throughout his presidency, Dr. Flickema made significant aesthetic improvements to the campus. Additionally, Judy Flickema organized a group of university supporters to plant gardens at the entrances to the campus and to weed these areas throughout the summer. Confirming Jefferson's insight, faculty, staff, students, and townspeople continue to remark about their appreciation for and commitment to the beautification of the campus.

Naming the new courtyard after Dr. and Mrs. Flickema in commemoration of their steady, enlightened efforts to instill pride of place in the campus community is singularly appropriate.

Dr. and Mrs. Flickema expressed their profound appreciation for the recognition and agreed to permit the use of their names for these purposes.

¹ Letter to James Madison, September 20, 1785.