

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

NO.: BHE 26-31

DATE: December 9, 2025

**APPROVAL OF NAMING OF FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY'S HEMENWAY
LABORATORIES BUILDING IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR THOMAS AND JOAN
EAMES**

MOVED: The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the request of Framingham State University's Board of Trustees to rename the Hemenway Laboratories building the "Professor Thomas and Joan Eames Laboratories."

VOTED: Motion was adopted by the BHE on 12/9/2025.

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws c. 15A, §6 and 9(m); BHE 17-23
Contact: Matthew Cole, Deputy Commissioner Administration, Finance, and Operations

Background

In 2014, the Board of Higher Education (the BHE) adopted a policy regarding the naming of buildings, which was most recently amended on January 24, 2017 by FAAP Motion 17-23. The policy sets forth the criteria for the naming of new and existing buildings which

include donor thresholds. For renovated or repurposed buildings on a state university campus, the donor threshold is \$1,500,000. [FAAP 17-23 \(January 2017\)](#).

The Framingham State University (FSU) Board of Trustees are seeking BHE approval that their recently renovated laboratory be named and known as the "Professor Thomas and Joan Eames Laboratories," in honor of Thomas Eames, a Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Food Science, and his wife, Joan. Thomas and Joan have made a significant donation to FSU in support of this naming request.

By way of background, Thomas is a Professor Emeritus of Chemistry and Food Science at FSU, and he served as a distinguished faculty member in the department from 1972-2000. During his tenure he was active in faculty governance and served as the faculty advisor to the Student Government Association for many years. The naming of the building in honor of Tom and Joan, celebrates not only their transformative gift, but also Tom's service to the University.

In consideration of the right to name the building, Thomas and Joan Eames have made a gift of \$2,021,941.00 to the Framingham State University Foundation, Inc., for the purpose of establishing a permanent endowed fund to support the University's College of STEM.

Pursuant to BHE policy, the required donor threshold for renaming a renovated or repurposed building is \$1.5 Million. [FAAP 17-23, Section III](#). Accordingly, the donation made by Thomas and Joan Eames meets BHE policy criteria.

On September 17, 2025, the FSU Board of Trustees approved, by unanimous vote, to request authorization from the BHE to name the building the "Professor Thomas and Joan Eames Laboratories."

In support of this request, please see the attached letter from President Nancy S. Niemi of Framingham State University (Attachment A).

Staff Recommendation

Department staff have determined that the Framingham State University Trustees' building naming request complies with BHE's building naming criteria. *FAAP Motion 17-23*. Staff recommendation is for approval of the request.