

**BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

**REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION**

**COMMITTEE:** Fiscal Affairs and Administrative Policy      **NO.:** FAAP 20-08

**COMMITTEE DATE:** October 15, 2019

**BOARD DATE:** October 22, 2019

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**NAMING OF FRAMINGHAM STATE UNIVERSITY'S NORTH HALL IN HONOR OF MARY MILES BIBB**

**MOVED:**            The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the request of the Framingham State University Board of Trustees to name the college's North Hall in honor of Mary Miles Bibb.

**VOTED:**            Motion adopted by FAAP 10/15/2019; adopted by BHE 10/22/2019.

Authority:            Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 15A, Section 9(m)

Contact:            Thomas J. Simard, Deputy Commissioner for Administration & Finance

## **Background**

In 2014, the Board of Higher Education adopted a policy regarding the naming of buildings which was most recently amended on January 24, 2016 by FAAP 17-23. The policy sets forth the criteria for the naming of new and existing buildings. For living donors, there are specific monetary thresholds that apply for such naming rights. However, naming rights also may be given "in honor of an individual, organization, or group having made a distinguished contribution of service, research, teaching or support to the campus; in honor of an individual, organization, or group having made a distinguished contribution of service or support to the community, the Commonwealth, or the nation." The request by Framingham State University ("FSU") to name the North Hall in honor of Mary Miles Bibb, a former student and civil rights leader, meets these criteria.

In his letter to the Department of Higher Education, President F. Javier Cevallos briefly describes the extraordinary contributions of Mary Miles Bibb, particularly her staunch advocacy for abolition with her husband, a fugitive slave; her establishment of an abolitionist newspaper in Canada; and her position as the host of the final stop of the Underground Railroad in Canada. Student leaders at FSU extensively researched the life and work of Mary Miles Bibb and led a student petition to support the naming of North Hall in her honor. Although this particular building naming is not tied to a specific monetary threshold, the institution references prospects of future fundraising opportunities for naming rights within sections of the building, as well as for other unnamed buildings at the university. In May 2019, the FSU Board of Trustees voted to approve this request.

Please see the attached letter from the President of FSU, F. Javier Cevallos, for additional information regarding this request.

Department staff recommendation is for approval of the request.