

Students oppose name change

WE ARE AN organized group of students at California State University, Hayward and we are writing to express our opposition to the proposed name change of our university by President Norma Rees. An overwhelming number of students are against this name change and our voices have not been a factor in the decision to change the name of our university. Although the president says that her proposal is based on feedback from a broad spectrum of individuals and groups, she has misled people.

Rees has made it clear that she does not care what students think; that she is pushing for the name change regardless of what the students think. She has not even made the research public that supposedly shows that people want this name change or that it would be beneficial. She calls her proposal a "judgment call," but it is nothing more than an executive decision made without regard to how the students feel, as well as many others. Students at this university are proud of our name and the City Council of Hayward stands behind us.

Also, changing our name would hurt name recognition and we feel that any donations we receive should go to helping students pay for school or to make more classes or services available, not to change the name of our school. We believe we should build on the strengths of our campus instead of changing its name.

If marketing would help our university increase enrollment and receive more donations, we think that our programs, centers, student organizations, accessibility, affordability, view, diversity, and other unique features should be marketed. A superficial name change will not make this university any better. We urge the CSU board of trustees to vote NO on this name change, and vote yes for democracy.

Tina Phillips
Students for CSUH