

THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

S.R. 2018/2019 – 07

A Resolution to formally support the efforts of the Black Student Union in the creation of a task force to address the issue of the naming of the Gish Theater.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

February 25, 2019

Authored by:

Reagan Shull – Chair of Student Affairs

Sponsored by:

Harrison Carter – Chair of Academic Affairs

February 25, 2019

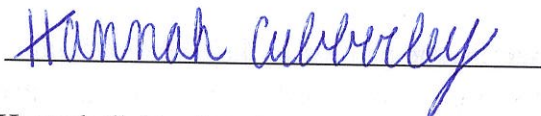
Approved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body, and prepared for the presentation to the president of the Undergraduate Student Government

February 25, 2019

Approved by the president of the Undergraduate Student Government, and so order into effect.



Paul Garbarino
Speaker of the Senate



Hannah Cubberley
President of the Undergraduate Student Government

S.R. 2018/2019 – 07

A Resolution to formally support the efforts of the Black Student Union in the creation of a task force to address the issue of the naming of the Gish Theater.

In the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body here assembled,

1. **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government represents the undergraduate student
2. voice at Bowling Green State University; and

3. **Whereas**, Bowling Green State University and the Undergraduate Student Government
4. aim to ensure all student voices are represented within the Senate; and

5. **Whereas**, the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater was renamed the Gish Theater
6. in 2018 after the renovation of Hanna Hall where it previously resided for 40 years honoring
7. silent film actress Lillian Gish; and

8. **Whereas**, Lillian Gish starred in the historically racist film *The Birth of a Nation* (D.W.
9. Griffith, 1915) which promotes racist ideology, American slavery pre-abolition, and the
10. resurgence of the Ku Klux Klan; and

11. **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government supports the promotion of equity,
12. inclusivity, and diversity throughout Bowling Green State University's campus for all; and

13. **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government wants to continue supporting
14. safe spaces for all students of different backgrounds and identities throughout every area of
15. campus to promote learning, understanding, freedom of expression, and safety; and

16. **Whereas**, the naming of the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater as the Gish
17. Theater subsequently glorifies the legacy and harmful themes of *The Birth of a Nation* that
18. contradicts BGSU's policy of inclusion and mission to promote equity and diversity; and

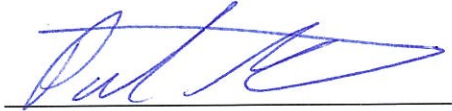
19. **Therefore, let it be resolved that**, The Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling
20. Green State University supports the Black Student Union in their commitment to engage the
21. community in dialogue regarding issues of diversity and inclusion on campus; and

22. **Therefore, let it further be resolved that**, The Undergraduate Student Government of
23. Bowling Green State University supports the creation of a task force of students, faculty

24. and staff to address this issue and create a recommendation to further Bowling Green
25. State University's commitment to "Belong, Stand Out, and Go Far" by assuring that every
26. student feels as though they truly belong in the spaces that belong to them.

THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

Passes by the Senate and ordered presented to the president of the Undergraduate Student Body for Approval or Veto.



Paul Garbarino
Speaker of the Senate

I do hereby approve and order this legislation into effect.



Hannah Cubberley
President of the Undergraduate Student Government

I do hereby disapprove and order this legislation to be returned to the Senate.

Hannah Cubberley
President of the Undergraduate Student Government