

Tuesday, May 16, 2017

SUBJECT: APPROVE NAMING OF UNIVERSITY ELEMENTS

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve the naming of the Diplomacy Program within the Dorothy F. Schmidt College of Arts and Letters' Department of Political Science in honor of Leon Charney. The proposed name of the program will be the "Leon Charney Diplomacy Program."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Donation:

Tzili Charney and the Leon H. Charney Foundation gave a \$1M gift on March 20, 2017 to name FAU's Diplomacy Program.

Gift Purpose:

The \$1M gift establishes a permanent endowment of \$900,000 with the \$100,000 balance used for immediate program funding over the next two years, and includes a one-time FAU Foundation administrative fee of 2.5%.

Endowment funding will underwrite scholarships for students participating in national and international diplomatic simulations, a director stipend and program support which may include guest speakers or activities related to promoting the program.

The Donor- Tzili Charney:

Tzili Charney is the wife of the late Leon Charney and chair of the Leon H. Charney Foundation. In December 2015, Leon Charney received an honorary doctorate from FAU in recognition of his lifelong commitment to peace through diplomacy. A prominent lawyer, author and broadcaster, as well as a former advisor to notable statesmen including U.S. President Jimmy Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Israeli President Ezer Weizman, Leon played a pivotal role in achieving the peace accords between Israel and Egypt in 1978.

Following Leon's passing in March 2016, Tzili has been actively promoting her husband's legacy. Her goal in making a transformative gift to FAU was to celebrate Leon's legacy, teach students about his work with the U.N., and educate and inspire students who desire a career like his.

Donor's Prior Relationship with FAU:

Tzili established a relationship with FAU following the awarding of the honorary degree to Leon. She became most interested in FAU's Diplomacy Program, exploring potential opportunities to connect FAU with the Leon Charney Resolution Center at the eastern Mediterranean International School in Israel founded in 2015 by Leon. Tzili remains actively involved with the School, representing her late husband and his commitment to peaceful resolution of conflict in the world.

Facility and Program:

Established in 1996, the FAU Diplomacy Program trains students in world affairs, dispute resolution and debate. The program is also a unit of the Peace, Justice, and Human Rights Initiative. Graduates from the Program have attended elite graduate and law schools and pursued careers in diplomacy, foreign policy and business.

Each year, delegations of FAU students participate in diplomatic simulations attended by more than 300 universities from all over the world in locations such as New York City, Washington, D.C., San Francisco, Chicago, Indianapolis and Maastricht, Netherlands. Thousands of university students compete in the simulations. To date, the FAU delegation has won nineteen national and international awards for academic excellence.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

None

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN/DATE

Immediate name change of the Program and related websites and information related to the Diplomacy program.

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