



**Minutes
Montana Board of Regents
May 18-19, 2022**

Wednesday, May 18, 2022

Meeting convened at 8:37 am

Regents Present: Casey Lozar, Chair, Brianne Rogers, Joyce Dombrowski, Todd Buchanan, Loren Bough, Jeff Southworth, and Amy Sexton. Ex officio members include Commissioner of Higher Education Clayton Christian, Governor Greg Gianforte, represented by Dylan Klapmeier, and Office of Public Instruction Superintendent Elsie Arntzen.

Welcome and Comments by Chair Lozar | 00:00:39

Chair Lozar welcomed everyone to the meeting. He referenced a productive breakfast with the Montana University System Staff Association (MUSSA) representatives and a great event at the Diesel Technology Center the night before. He highlighted the Tilleman Field completion and that it is the first field in the Frontier Conference to have artificial turf. He continued with other renovations, such as the Hagener Science Center, which includes a new nursing program and a nursing simulation lab. Chair Lozar then gave an overview of the agenda.

Welcome by Chancellor Kegel | Presentation | 00:09:40

Chancellor Kegel discussed Northern as 'The Northern Frontier' with specifics about the school's origins, successes, and goals. As they were built on the original frontier, they are now striving to be on the technological frontier. Chancellor Kegel expressed that being the only campus in a large area, the focus is to promote college attendance and partnerships with the community. A Harvard study found Northern as the number one university in Montana in upward mobility. He shared a focus on the future with continual growth and change, including reminding their partners of the need for change, recognizing demographic shifts, and having ag as a primary focus. To remain competitive and of value to their partners, they must provide experience, retention, and recruitment. Chancellor Kegel spoke about additional projects, including The Aurora Complex, Equine Center, and Tilleman Field.

Approval of Minutes | 00:38:10

- March 10-11, 2022, Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of the March 10-11, 2022, Board meeting minutes was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

Commissioner's Report | 00:38:45



Commissioner Christian congratulated all the recent spring graduates. He acknowledged that the MUS is one of the most significant economic engines in the state and his pride for all the recent graduates entering the workforce. He discussed the Little River Institute and acknowledged that it would be presented in detail later in the meeting. MSU-Northern is the only campus in Montana designated as a Native American Serving Non-Tribal Institution by the U.S. Department of Education. A federal grant has allowed Northern to improve and expand its capacity. The Institute provides tutoring, mentoring, and support for American Indian students at Northern. He continued with information about the Second Chance Pell Grant program. Four MUS campuses have been selected as part of that expanded program, including Great Falls College, MSU Billings, Helena College, and Dawson Community College.

- Enrollment Report | 00:47:12

Scott Lemmon, Director of Admissions and Enrollment Strategy, discussed the enrollment report. The dashboard shows MUS enrollment is up overall for the first time since 2017, while it is down nationally. The largest increase is in non-resident enrollment. The Montana two-year enrollment decrease is flattening out, and first-time freshmen enrollment is increasing, which is very encouraging. The Apply Montana Portal is one of the building blocks for enrollment, but advantages need to continue to be highlighted. Discussion followed.

- Federal Update | 01:02:00

Helen Thigpen, Deputy Commissioner for Government Relations and Public Affairs, discussed plans for the next Montana Legislative session. MUS initiatives include 1) Montana 10, designed to enhance skilled workforce by increasing degrees at a lower cost; 2) MUS Cybersecurity, designed to develop and maintain comprehensive system level infrastructure in the MUS and establish a cybersecurity training and education center; 3) Seamless System Technology, designed to create a seamless online course catalog and digital learning environment, resulting in a cutting edge mobile friendly and engaging user interface; 4) Regional Initiatives in Dental Education (RIDE) program, designed to increase the number of dentists practicing in rural and underserved communities; and 5) Montana Innovation, designed to support the growth of high-tech enterprise statewide. Discussion followed.

Deputy Commissioner Thigpen stated federal progress is mostly deadlocked except for the competitiveness bills. Title IX rules are likely to be seen soon, student loan payments are still paused, and a shift was made to agency-focused policies.

- MUS and Mental Health | 01:27:24

Crystine Miller, Director of Student Affairs and Student Engagement, said mental health is among the most critical issues many people are facing right now. Some ongoing efforts include Montana HOPES, Healthy Colleges Montana, and Rural Mental Health. She provided a task force update, including the MUS Mental Health & Wellness Summit 2022 and statistics from various sources about student mental health. A mental health needs assessment includes stakeholders, scope, resources, and action. Discussion followed.



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- Introductions | *01:46:24*

President Bodnar introduced Dr. Pardis Mahdavi as the incoming UM Provost and Executive VP; and expressed thanks to Dr. Reed Humphrey for serving as the Interim Provost.

- Regents Award of Excellence | *01:49:55*

Commissioner Christian announced Debbie Winegar, Administrative Associate for the College of Health Sciences at MSU-Northern as the Regents' Award of Excellence winner. She spoke briefly about her team, the students at Northern, and her willingness to help.

Remarks by Governor Gianforte (or Designee) | *01:53:38*

Dylan Klapmeier, Governor's Education Policy Advisor, acknowledged outgoing Regent Sexton for her two years as the student regent. He commented on the presentations from Directors Thigpen and Miller about priorities for the system, such as cybersecurity and mental health approaches. Some of the Governor's emergency education relief funding went to DPHHS for K-12 mental health screening tools. Mr. Klapmeier discussed the Governor's campus visits and event attendance, including hosting the MSU women's national rodeo championship team. He continued by discussing work-based learning partnerships and the many opportunities to align initiatives between key partners from K-12 into the workforce. The State Workforce Innovation Board had its first meeting last month. He touched on some of the upcoming agenda items and then provided an update on Accelerate Montana.

Remarks by Superintendent Arntzen | *02:05:34*

Superintendent Arntzen addressed previous discussion points and emphasized partnerships. Teacher prep programs are the next rule section to be worked on, which may be ready in early 2023. Accreditation will also be addressed. Teacher residency could mirror the medical residencies and help retain and bring in teachers. The Summer Institute will happen the third week of June. She also discussed opportunities for a state diploma and a half unit of financial literacy required moving forward.

Two-Year and Community College Committee | *02:17:08*

Brock Tessman, Deputy Commissioner of Academic, Research, and Student Affairs, discussed the agenda and how it connects to the comprehensive mission. He stated that two-year campuses are vital to the system, and this agenda would highlight several primary challenges and opportunities.

ACTION

- a. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 301.19 – Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) ITEM 200-101-R0522 | Attachment #1

Jacque Treaster, Director of Dual Enrollment and Career & Technical Education, discussed the changes in the policy presented for approval.



INFORMATION

a. MUS Healthcare Workforce Education

Deputy Commissioner Tessman discussed the immediate impact, opportunities and the emerging opportunities for MUS Healthcare Workforce Education. Immediate impact could occur by looking at the curriculum, expanding models that are already working, and expanding preceptor training and development. Emerging opportunities can be reached with a clearer understanding of clinical placement in Montana. Discussion followed.

b. Perkins V

Director Treaster explained that this grant requires a yearly report, and this update is based on that report. Perkins V did receive a small budget bump for the upcoming grant cycle. All the two-year and community college campuses, three tribal colleges, and 133 school districts receive Perkins funding to support CTE. Traditionally Perkins provides CTE program support such as equipment, curriculum development, professional development, K-12 partnerships, and career exploration. Another area of focus is access to quality CTE for every Montanan with a focus on special populations, including gender non-traditional, adult education, and American Indians. Director Treaster highlighted a few data areas of interest, such as almost a quarter of the CTE concentrators are American Indian students, and nearly half are in special populations. Each campus receives report cards specific to them. Montana met every performance indicator in the post-secondary area. Discussion followed.

MUS Transfer Project

Joe Thiel, Director of Academic Policy & Research, spoke about the transfer project, which affects every campus. Transfer ease is important because 1 in 6 MUS students will transfer within the system, and 1 in 5 new MUS students have prior college work. 1 in 3 transfers is between MUS 4-year campuses. Students who enter a two-year college with plans to transfer have a low completion rate. Director Thiel discussed important transfer considerations, including whether credits will transfer, what courses will count toward general education, what courses will help in the desired major, and can needed courses be accessed when needed.

Angela DeWolf King, ARSA Executive Assistant and Operations Manager, discussed where transfer students can receive help and what support is available after transferring. Nationally, Montana is 1 of 4 states with a comprehensive numbering system and the only one that actively works to align that numbering system. MUS also provides a free application and transmittal process and provides mandatory advising. The portal is very informative, and support for advisors is critical. Students need to have answers to three questions before transferring: degree and credit applicability, preparedness, and campus connection. She then discussed the next steps, from expanding foundational transfer processes to improving communication and developing best practices for transfer culture. Discussion followed.



Staff Items:

- a. Staff Item, Helena College ITEM 200-1900-R0522
- b. Staff Item, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1000-R0522
- c. Staff Item, MSU Great Falls ITEM 200-2900-R0522
- d. Staff Item, MSU Northern ITEM 200-2800-R0522
- e. Staff Item, MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2000-R0522
- f. Staff Item, UM Western ITEM 200-1600-R0522
- g. Staff Item, MT Tech ITEM 200-1500-R0522
- h. Request for Approval of University System/Employee Intellectual Property Joint Participation under MUSP 407-Nugent; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2005-R0522 | Attachment #1

Emeriti Faculty:

- i. Van Dyne, MT Tech ITEM 200-1502-R0522
- j. Schahczenski, MT Tech ITEM 200-1501-R0522
- k. Broberg, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1014-R0522
- l. Chin, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1015-R0522
- m. Henderson, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1016-R0522
- n. Koehn, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1017-R0522
- o. McNulty, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1018-R0522
- p. Spencer, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1019-R0522
- q. Reichert, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1020-R0522
- r. Hausmann, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1023-R0522
- s. J. Ulrich, UM Western ITEM 200-1602-R0522
- t. K. Ulrich, UM Western ITEM 200-1603-R0522
- u. Francisconi, UM Western ITEM 200-1604-R0522
- v. Sands, MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2001-R0522
- w. Haynes, MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2002-R0522
- x. Olson, MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2003-R0522
- y. Perkins, MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2004-R0522

Facility Item:

- z. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off Campus Lease for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Tennis); UM Missoula ITEM 200-1001-R0522 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2



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- aa. Request for Authorization to Complete Phase II Remodel of Aber Hall; UM Missoula ITEM 200-1022-R0522 | Attachment #1
- bb. Request for Authorization to Design Pedestrian Access Improvements; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2007-R0522
- cc. Request of Authorization to Design and Construct Paved Parking Improvements; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2008-R0522 | Attachment #1
- dd. Request for Authorization to Design and Construct a Renovation of Existing Campus Space to House the MonArk Quantum Foundry; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2009-R0522 | Attachment #1
- ee. Request for Authorization to Redesign and Renovate Food Service Space within the Strand Union Building; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2012-R0522 | Attachment #1

Other Item:

- ff. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 805 – Executive Perquisites; OCHE/MUS ITEM 200-104-R0522 | Attachment #1
- gg. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.24 – Contract Requirements for the University of Washington Cooperative Medical Program (WWAMI); OCHE/MUS ITEM 200-105-R0522 | Attachment #1

ACTION

- a. Present Law Budget, 2025 Biennium; OCHE/MUS ITEM 200-102-R0522

Tyler Trevor, Deputy Commissioner for Budget and Planning, provided an overview of the MUS budget timeline and pointed out that the May BOR meeting prior to a legislative session is the beginning of the budget development process. A decision point in this process is the adoption of present law calculations that serve as inflationary cost adjustments to the base budget.

Shauna Lyons, MUS Director of Accounting and Budget, discussed present law adjustment and how it is built. These would not increase any services but keep them at the same level. Other considerations are the annualization of the pay plan and other personnel costs, agency operating expenses, higher education specific increases, and new space. Some aspects of those items are unique to MUS. For the budget ask, a percentage is figured for state share. Discussion followed.

- b. Request for Approval of the FY 2023 Tuition Rates; Dawson Community College ITEM 200-201-R0522 | Attachment #1
- c. Request for Approval of the FY 2023 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates; Flathead Valley Community College ITEM 200-301-R0522 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor and Director Lyons spoke to action items b. and c. These are annual requests from Dawson and Flathead Community Colleges which their local board of trustees have already approved.



- d. Request for Authorization to Name the Proposed MSU Computing Building Gianforte Hall; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2006-R0522

Committee Chair Dombrowski explained that the policy does allow this exception. MSU held a listening session, and all public comment was shared with the Board.

President Cruzado provided the background of the request and spoke about the process they have used to garner comment and the benefit the hall will offer and asked for support. Discussion followed.

- e. Request for Authorization to Program, Plan and Design a Building to House the Gianforte School of Computing and Computing-Related Fields; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2010-R0522

Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke to this request which is related to the previous item and would grant authorization to plan and design the new building with donated expenditures up to five million.

- f. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design, Repair, Replace and Install Utility Systems along South Seventh Avenue; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2011-R0522 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained that this is an addition to the existing tunnel system due to expansion of the campus and will be part of operation and maintenance funding.

- g. Request for Authorization to Issue Bonds to Finance Auxiliary Buildings; UM Missoula ITEM 200-1021-R0522 | Attachment #1, Attachment #2

Vice President Lasiter described this request to borrow up to 60 million for several projects, including completion of existing projects, deconstruction, and for a proposed new residence hall. This building had not been approved yet.

Commissioner Christian noted that this resident hall will be specifically for student housing and the reference to employee should be omitted.

- h. Request for Authority to Increase Spending for a New Dining Facility; UM Missoula ITEM 200-1024-R0522 | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor discussed this request for additional spending authority which is due to expense increases.

Regent Southworth explained that to avoid any potential conflict of interest he would refrain from the discussion and abstain from the vote.



a. Long Range Building Program Priority List, 2025 Biennium

- Capital Projects: UM | MSU
- Major Repairs: UM| MSU

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained this item is unchanged from March. Since ARPA funding is still undetermined, the final ranking has not been finished.

b. UM Western Wellness Center | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2

Chancellor Reid spoke to the background for this proposal. With the rise of housing costs and inflation, the planning had to begin again. The proposal is for about half of what it started as, making good use of the available funding and existing facilities, with support from most students.

Student President Yaeger explained this item has been on the student list for quite a long time. Fees to go off campus for the same services can be much higher than Chancellor Reid mentioned, and there is a strong demand for mental health facilities.

c. Employee Retention & Recruitment

Commissioner Christian introduced this topic, acknowledging that the discussion is light on solutions, but it is crucial first to identify the issues, complexity, and comparisons.

Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke about the need to build a foundation to start the discussion as a system and began his discussion with national data. The MUS data is a snapshot from February, and the three-year difference is down seven percent across all types. Turnover is costly for several reasons and includes a compliance risk. He discussed several data points and factors affecting them. Discussion followed.

d. Online Fee Transition Proposal

Deputy Commissioner Trevor explained that part of the work plan is analyzing fees, including online fees. Currently, all students use the LMS and other technology, and most do at least some online work, but only students signed up for online pay the fees. There is a large variation in fees charged. The proposal is to phase out the online fee in favor of an increased mandatory fee for all students over a three-year timeline beginning fall of 2023.

e. Information Security Audit | Summary | Project Plan

Margaret Wallace, Director of Assurance and Enterprise Risk, discussed the legislative information systems audit of the MUS, which reviewed information security governance practices and staffing and assessed aspects of each university's security program. An outside consultant was contracted to identify flagship security vulnerabilities. Four recommendations were received, and Director Wallace discussed the MUS response and resulting opportunities.



Commissioner Christian commented that this will ultimately result in policy revisions that will come back to the Board for approval. Discussion followed.

f. Annual Facilities Projects Authority Update

- UM | Attachment #1
- MSU | Attachment #1

Deputy Commissioner Trevor spoke to this list of construction projects and authority associated presented as required by policy.

Public Comment* | 05:21:18

O'Shay Birdinground, ASUM Senator from UM spoke in opposition to the naming of the proposed building at MSU.

Meeting Recessed at 4:07 pm

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Meeting Reconvened at 8:40 am

Education Interim Committee / Board of Regents Joint Session | 00:00:04

- Welcome and Introductions
- Topics: | 00:05:38

Deputy Commissioner Tessman spoke to how all the about to be discussed topics fit together under one of three things that we do to serve students and the state: access, success, and development.

- Career and Technical Education/Agriculture Training Programs

Dean Dave Krueger discussed the CTE programs at MSUN, which are flexible and stackable. The model for success includes active industry partnerships, internships, dual enrollment, TekNoXpo, which is the student pathway exploration, workforce development, and stackable credentials. He highlighted some examples of career technical education and emphasized that it should be tailored to the individual. He spoke of two areas of workforce development: accelerated apprenticeship education and endorsements for high school industrial tech and ag teachers. Considerations for the future should include short-term academic needs, expansion of distance delivery of apprenticeship education, short-term training opportunities, and development of a center for workforce development.

- Dual Enrollment

Director Treaster discussed what dual enrollment is and how it works. About one third of



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dual enrollment is career and technical education. She showed data with the CTE DE sorted career cluster, with manufacturing being the highest percentage.

- Grow Your Own

Angela McLean, Director of American Indian/Minority Achievement and K-12 Partnerships spoke to the Grow Your Own program. During the 2021 session a bill passed which supported efforts to deliver teachers in communities and three community projects were funded. Those are MSU Northern, Stone Child College, and Blackfeet Community College. She gave a status report of each of those three projects.

- MT Innovation Alliance

Director Thiel spoke about partnering between scientific innovation in classrooms and industry innovation. MUS research activity is at 329 million dollars. This results in additional ways campuses are supported in hiring faculty and student experiences. There have been 62 new companies built from MUS research since 2006. There are indirect benefits as well, such as encouraging others to start that type of work. Montana has averaged more than 100 million dollars in venture capital investments in the last five years. A recent effort MUS launched is a round table, The Montana Innovation Alliance, which will help future efforts.

- Ongoing Collaboration between Board of Regents and Legislature

Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee | 01:26:00

ACTION

- a. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation

Deputy Commissioner Tessman presented the process the request to plan proposals undergo before being brought for consideration. Representatives from each campus gave a brief presentation of their item.

Provost Eskandari, MSU Billings, presented the request to plan proposals for the Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S) in in Medical Coding and Insurance Billing.

Provost Gammon, Montana Tech, presented the request to plan proposal for the Certificate of Applied Science (C.A.S.) and A.A.S. in Mining Technology.

Deputy Commissioner Tessman gave a brief summary of the context of learning centers and their history before the next item.

Provost McLean, UM Western, presented the request to plan proposal for a Center for Experiential Education (CEE).



INFORMATION | 03:45:30

Academic Review Items

- a. Academic Approval Memorandum (February, March)

Deputy Commissioner Tessman spoke to the approval authority the Board has designated to the institutions or the Commissioner. Items approved under that authority since the previous meeting are submitted in a report.

BOR Policy Revisions – Admissions Policies 301 & 301.1

- a. Attachment #1: Draft revisions to BOR policy 301 – Admission Requirements
- b. Attachment #2: Draft revisions to BOR policy 301.1 – Admission Requirements for Undergraduates into Four-Year University Programs

Deputy Commissioner Tessman discussed the policy revisions provided which will clarify that dual enrollment students are regular applicants, not transfers, and moving policy in line with actual practice regarding students who don't meet proficiency standards. Discussion followed.

Strategic Priority Items

Deputy Commissioner Tessman introduced the topic by briefly discussing the four main priorities set by the ARSA committee at the beginning of the academic year, expanding access for all Montanans, retention and completion, workforce and economic development, and equity in opportunity and achievement. These priorities are adjusted each year but are based on the strategic plan.

- a. MUS College Access
 - i. Montana Gear UP

Travis Anderson, Director of GEAR UP, discussed first-year services focused on the transition period between high school and college. The service launched in the fall of 2020 for all students from a Montana GEAR UP school. Coordinators work to support students during their first year on campus, but that begins with outreach while the student is in high school, increases during the transition to campus, and works to connect students with campus services during their first year.

- ii. Montana Educational Opportunity Center

Jeannie Origbo, TRIO Pre-College Programs Director, talked about how the Educational Opportunity Center grant supports adult and lifelong learners by increasing access and opportunity. This involves redefining what college is. She shared stories about specific clients and what the grant and community partnerships can do for them.

Discussion followed.



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- b. American Indian & Minority Achievement (AIMA) NSANTI Little River Institute, Montana State University – Northern

Director McLean introduced Dr. Margaret Campbell, Chief Diversity Office at Northern, and Director Erika McKeon-Hanson, of the Little River Institute and gave a brief history of the Institute.

Dr. Campbell spoke about the background of herself and Director McKeon-Hanson and the format of the presentation.

Director McKeon-Hanson spoke about the aspects of their logo and what it represents. She discussed what Native American-Serving NonTribal Institutions (NASNTI) are and that Northern is the only one in Montana, with about fifteen percent of students being Native American. The Institute's logic model focuses on a sense of belonging through the campus home, self-identity, culture, and family. The goal is to build retention and graduation rates. The Institute's staff work with their partners on campus to provide professional tutoring, mentoring, professional development, and a family education model. The success is building because teachers are now bringing their students back. Retention rates have increased twenty percent for freshmen and show over a five percent graduation rate increase since the grant was received. Discussion followed.

Public Comment* | 02:36:33

Garret Yaeger, ASUM Western President spoke to clarify aspects of the student response for a student wellness center at Western.

Garret Micklin, UM law student, spoke of his opposition to naming a building after Governor Gianforte.

Committee Reports & Action | 02:42:40

- Two-Year and Community College Committee

ACTION

- a. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 301.19 – Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) ITEM 200-101-R0522 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 200-101-R0522, was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).

- Budget, Administration and Audit Committee

CONSENT

Staff Items:

- a. Staff Item, Helena College ITEM 200-1900-R0522



- b. Staff Item, UM Missoula ITEM 200-1000-R0522
- c. Staff Item, MSU Great Falls ITEM 200-2900-R0522
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- w. Haynes, MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2002-R0522
- x. Olson, MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2003-R0522



- y. Perkins, MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2004-R0522

Facility Item:

- z. Request for Authorization to Enter into Off Campus Lease for the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics (Tennis); UM Missoula ITEM 200-1001-R0522 | Attachment #1 | Attachment #2
- aa. Request for Authorization to Complete Phase II Remodel of Aber Hall; UM Missoula ITEM 200-1022-R0522 | Attachment #1
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Other Item:

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- gg. Request for Approval to Revise Board of Regents Policy 940.24 – Contract Requirements for the University of Washington Cooperative Medical Program (WWAMI); OCHE/MUS ITEM 200-105-R0522 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of consent items a.-gg. was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).

ACTION

- a. Present Law Budget, 2025 Biennium; OCHE/MUS ITEM 200-102-R0522

A motion for approval of action item a., ITEM 200-102-R0522, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- b. Request for Approval of the FY 2023 Tuition Rates; Dawson Community College ITEM 200-201-R0522 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item b., ITEM 200-201-R0522, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).



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- c. Request for Approval of the FY 2023 Tuition and Mandatory Fee Rates; Flathead Valley Community College ITEM 200-301-R0522 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item c., ITEM 200-301-R0522, was made by Regent Buchanan; motion passed (7-0).

- d. Request for Authorization to Name the Proposed MSU Computing Building Gianforte Hall; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2006-R0522

A motion for approval of action item d., ITEM 200-2006-R0522, was made by Regent Bough. Discussion followed; motion passed (6-1) with Regent Lozar against.

- e. Request for Authorization to Program, Plan and Design a Building to House the Gianforte School of Computing and Computing-Related Fields; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2010-R0522

A motion for approval of action item e., ITEM 200-2010-R0522, was made by Regent Bough; motion passed (7-0).

- f. Request for Authorization to Plan, Design, Repair, Replace and Install Utility Systems along South Seventh Avenue; MSU Bozeman ITEM 200-2011-R0522 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item e., ITEM 200-2011-R0522, was made by Regent Rogers; motion passed (7-0).

- g. Request for Authorization to Issue Bonds to Finance Auxiliary Buildings; UM Missoula ITEM 200-1021-R0522 | Attachment #1, Attachment #2

A motion for approval of action item g., ITEM 200-1021-R0522, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (7-0).

- h. Request for Authority to Increase Spending for a New Dining Facility; UM Missoula ITEM 200-1024-R0522 | Attachment #1

A motion for approval of action item h., ITEM 200-1024-R0522, was made by Regent Dombrowski; motion passed (6-0) with Regent Southworth abstaining.

- Academic, Research and Student Affairs Committee

ACTION

- a. Request to Plan Proposals Executive Summary | Supporting Documentation

A motion for approval of action item a., Request to Plan Proposals, was made by Regent Sexton; motion passed (7-0).



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Chair Lozar explained the process related to appeals.

- Appeal

The request to hear the appeal is denied, and the Commissioner's decision is upheld.

Members of the Board and the Commissioners expressed gratitude to Regent Sexton for her two terms as this is her last meeting. | 02:55:20

Election of Officers | 03:06:06

Commissioner Christian discussed the process according to Article IV of the by-laws.

Regent Bough made a nomination for Regent Rogers to serve as Board Chair. Discussion followed; motion passed (7-0).

Regent Sexton made a nomination for Regent Buchanan to serve as Vice Chair. Discussion followed; motion passed (7-0).

Meeting Adjourned at 12:33 pm

Approved by the Board of Regents on

07/14/2022

Date

Handwritten signature of Clayton T. Christian in cursive.

Clayton T. Christian
Commissioner of Higher Education
and Secretary to the Board of Regents

07/14/2022

Date

Handwritten signature of Brianne Rogers in cursive.

Brianne Rogers
Chair, Board of Regents

APPENDIX A

New Recording 21.m4a

Meeting Facilitator: Good afternoon, everyone. Good afternoon, everyone. It's 4:30, so we're going to begin this meeting. I want to describe to you what this meeting is and how we're conducted. First of all, my name is Tracy Ellig. I am the staff person staffing this public listening session today. I work in University Communications here at the university. But today I'm working for the Montana Board of Regents. Montana Board of Regents is the governing body of the entire Montana University System. And when they take in consideration a naming, a possible naming proposal, they have a policy that there is a listening session on every campus where that building may be named. The reason they do this is so that the public can have an opportunity to submit comment without having to physically travel to a Board of Regents meeting. So your opportunity tonight is to have your public comment recorded and then presented to the Board of Regents for their next meeting, which is in Havre in May.

Okay. So what will happen tonight is that these public comments, the public testimony given, will be recorded and then transcribed and then provided to the Board of Regents for their consideration at their May meeting. This is a public meeting. And so we have one or more members of the media here who will be reporting on this. If you wish to give public comment, please sign in. There's a sign in sheet back there. And then we have tonight ten people who wish to give public comment. And so that I would ask that when we start public comment that you come up to the podium, say your first and last name and give your testimony. Out of courtesy, I would ask that you keep your testimony to 3 minutes so there's time for other people to speak, but I won't cut anyone off. And in fact, I will stay here as late tonight as there are people who want to testify. The meeting was advertised from 4:30 to 5:30. If it's 5:30, there's still, there's no one left to testify, then we'll close the meeting. If at 5:30, there continue to be people who wish to testify, I will stay and will continue to record that. So, again, we're about to start. I have those who've signed in. If you wish to testify and you've not signed in, please sign in back there. And after we go through these ten, I'll go get that. Come forward to the podium. State your first and last name and your testimony. And again, this is being recorded that will be transcribed and provided to the Board of Regents.

So with that, we're going to begin and the first person tonight is David Parker. Would you like to testify?

David Parker:

Yes, Tracy, thank you very much. I'm just going to put on my reading glasses, if you don't mind. Of course, that age. My name is David Parker. I'm the head of the Department of Political Science, and the statement that I'm going to issue is on behalf of my department, which asked me to give this statement to you all here today. We, the members of the Department of Political Science at Montana State University here in Bozeman, strongly object to naming the new physical home of the School of Computing Gianforte Hall. First, public institutions should not put themselves in a position to offer candidates, regardless of their party, for political office, free marketing or political advertising. While we understand that this donation comes from the Gianforte Family Foundation and the name would acknowledge the family and not the current governor, specifically, Montana State University's naming of this building would unavoidably create the perception of endorsing or supporting a sitting incumbent governor who is expected to run for reelection. Naming the building after Gianforte or his family could be seen as an implicit endorsement of his candidacy. The university should never be put into this position, regardless of the

candidate. Second, Montana State University articulates the values of integrity and inclusion as part of its mission and vision. The Gianforte family and their foundation do not support these values. As a candidate for Congress, Mr. Gianforte engaged in an act of political violence against a member of the media. As governor, Mr. Gianforte has also signed a bill preventing trans students from participating in collegiate level sports, which runs counter to NCAA policy and the university's commitment to the equal and fair treatment of all people here in Montana. Susan Gianforte actively spoke out against the adoption of the City of Bozeman Nondiscrimination Ordinance, which protects people based upon their sexual orientation from discrimination. Finally, the Gianforte Family Foundation itself has donated to organizations that have been termed by the Southern Poverty Law Center as, quote, hate groups, unquote, including the Alliance Defending Freedom, which opposes gay marriage and transgender rights. To be blunt, naming this building after the Gianforte family is antithetical to the university's own expressed values and undermines the university's public commitment to these same values. Please do not provide this honor to the family. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: The next person is Rob Larson. Is Rob Larson here?

Hi, my name is Ron Larson and I would support Gianforte family naming of whatever they choose to name it. Our family, the Larson family, has a scholarship here. It's a very small scholarship. We've been working on it for 30 years and we've grown it to six figures. And, nobody helped us with that. That was our family alone. And I just believe that a gift ought to be a gift, and the recipients of that gift ought to accept it with the, with the, just, just accept it. I don't think they should put restrictions or covenants or anything like that. And that's all I have to say. Thanks.

Meeting Facilitator: Our next person is Braden Hunt. Is Braden Hunt here?

Braden Hunt:

I have more than 3 minutes. Would it be all right if I could skip to the end?

Meeting Facilitator: Sure.

Braden Hunt: And just be courteous of everyone.

Meeting Facilitator: I will just put an arrow.

Braden Hunt: Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Mary Rutger. Is Mary Rutger here?

Mary Rutger:

So I'm Mary Rutger and I lived in Bozeman for 44 years, and I'm here to state that I'm opposed to this building being named GianforteGianforte. Primarily when I first even heard this was happening. I thought, this is strange because he is the governor of our state state. I mean, yes, it's a foundation, but he is at this time the governor. And so that does mean he's a member of a political party. I then read in the guidelines that no elected official was to be, a building was not to be named after them until after a year had passed since they were out of office. But I read that there can be this exception made that to my knowledge it has never been made. I read the list of building names, the people that were honored, why they were honored, who donated money. But I did not see any political people that were holding political office mentioned, so I really would not like to see that precedent. I think

that's a very poor precedent to be establishing. And then I also have heard the same concerns about Gianforte. This is a public university and our governor, Greg Gianforte, has many stances which I don't feel benefit a state or a public institution. And I feel that's in the realms of really honoring and respecting people of other religions, respecting the scientific community, respecting our environmental protection laws here in Montana, and, of course, protecting sexual orientation. I think that this is just a time to really do some soul searching as a name that's supposed to be enduring and lasting. I read that, through the policies, MSU, takes it very seriously the naming of their buildings, and they would like them to be lasting and enduring. And I would like no regret to be held for anybody that this is the name. I would also like to acknowledge that Greg Gianforte, looked up today that he won his election by 52%. So 42%, and that's very near half of our state's population, did not support him in the election. Here in Bozeman, personally, those numbers were just about reversed. Where he lost in Bozeman. He lost did not have a majority in Missoula. So those are two university towns. I feel like that also just says something. I'm not going to say what, but it is something about public opinion. So that's all I have to say. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Carl Anderson. Is Carl Anderson here?

Carl Anderson: Hello, my name is Karl Anderson. I am a student organizer, but I am speaking to you today as an alumnus of MSU. I graduated with a bachelor's in biochemistry and with a minor in astrobiology from Montana State University's College of Letters and Science. This is an individual, Greg Gianforte is an individual who, with his own hands, signed into law legislation that inhibited the rights of trans students, female body autonomy, and even students rights to advocate for themselves and make meaningful change in the state and community. He is a science denier who is openly homophobic and whose favorite pastime is to use inhumane traps to torture and kill animals for sport. Let us not forget that he also assaulted a member of the Fourth Estate while trying to do their job. It is fine to take his money, but please do not honor this individual by enshrining him with a monument that students have, that students who have been harmed by his by his policies will have, will have to be reminded of every day they attend this university. Please consider one of the other proposed options for the name of this new building. Thank you for your time.

Meeting Facilitator: Is Madelyn Metter, Met-, Mettier here? Madelyn Mettier. Are you, Madelyn?

Madelyn Mettler: Yes.

Meeting Facilitator: Okay.

Madelyn Mettler: And it's Mettler, M-e-t-t-l-e-r.

Meeting Facilitator: My apologies.

Madelyn Mettler: Yeah. My name is Madelyn Mettler. I'm a second-year Ph.D. student but I did my undergrad here so I'm in my sixth year in time, in my time at Montana State. And there's many things that I could comment on today, but I'll keep it short and I'll write in the rest of my feelings. While the building will be named after the Gianforte family, many people, including myself, will hear the name and think of the current governor. Having the School of Computing named after Gianforte is already a slap in the face to many students, specifically female minority and LGBTQ+ students. He is waging political war against

people belonging to these groups on top of the other controversies he's tied up in. Have we forgotten that Mr. Gianforte was convicted of assault? Naming a building after Gianforte, to me and many other students shows that the university cares more about money than its students and more than normal human decency. Adopting the Gianforte name unintentionally or intentionally, acts as a political endorsement and therefore endorses any activity, political or personal, conducted by Mr. Gianforte and the Gianforte family. I think this would be a massive mistake.

Meeting Facilitator: Is Cole Shultz here? Cole?

Cole Shultz: I'm Cole.

Meeting Facilitator: Welcome.

Cole Shultz: I'm Cole Soltz, an undergraduate sophomore here at MSU, and I'm making public comment in opposition to naming this building after the Gianforte Family Foundation. Not only do I believe that Greg Gianforte, the face of this family foundation, acts in spite of our values in his position as governor, but that the same so-called charity donates to organizations that oppose our values as a land-grant university. And rejecting this would provide our university a unique opportunity to lead a new wave of social change. Governor Gianforte is known for violating numerous state laws, the most famous of which is his infamous assault on an independent journalist. His political actions also show a lack of empathy for LGBTQ+ individuals and a clear disregard for the inclusivity and respect that we pride ourselves on. His family foundation doubles down on these behaviors that are antithetical to our mission as a land-grant institution, donating to designated hate groups that seek to eliminate the identities of our fellow LGBTQ+ citizens. Finally, the decision to reject historical precedents of naming buildings after their donors, a precedent that promotes a cycle of power and capital, would place MSU at the forefront of social progress. We would be showing that wealth alone, even if philanthropic, cannot buy power, cannot buy power and history at our university because it cannot even buy the name of a building. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: I apologize. I'm having trouble reading this name. Is it Dan Savage?

Bau Sauvage: Bau Sauvage.

Meeting Facilitator: Bau Sauvage. My apologies. Welcome.

Bau Sauvage: No worries.

Meeting Facilitator: Welcome.

Bau Sauvage: Uh, give me one second. OK. I'm Bau Sauvage. I'm a freshman here at MSU in the computer science major. Governor Gianforte has qualities and beliefs that we here at MSU should not excuse or encourage by naming this building after him. He has donated millions of dollars to anti-LGBTQ+ groups and has passed harmful legislation that target the LGBTQ+ community, such as one limiting sex changes on birth certificates. Another forcing trans high school and college students in sports to play on the teams of their birth sex, and yet another that allows open discrimination against queer people for purposes of religious freedom. Naming this building after Governor Gianforte or his family will send a stark message that MSU cares more about money than promoting the values of

diversity and inclusion, values that benefit all members of our campus and community. And is this—I would like to propose a name for the building. Is that allowed?

Meeting Facilitator: It's public comment. You may say whatever you wish.

Bau Sauvage: OK. My proposed name for the—

Meeting Facilitator: Well, keep it clean, please.

Bau Sauvage: I'll try. My proposed name for the building is Paxton Hall. Dr. John Paxton is the current director of the Computer Science Department here at MSU. He's also the staff sponsor of oSTEM MSU, a student club that organizes, a student club that encourages professional development for queer folks in STEM fields. Dr. Paxton has worked throughout his career at MSU to actively increase inclusion and diversity in the computer science department, which historically lacks racial, gender and queer diversity. He also works to present countless opportunities for students to grow and succeed within computer science, such as the annual Spring Break Tech Road Trip that he organizes and the oSTEM national conference. He's also involved in the Association of Women in Computing and the annual Grace Hopper Conference that encourages women in computing, encourages women in the computer science department. Dr. Paxton's many years of involvement at the school show how much he cares about every student and giving them every opportunity to succeed. Naming this building after him would express the immense appreciation that we as a community have for all that he has done in the face of a history of discrimination at MSU. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Is it Elsie or Elise Otto?

Elise Otto: Elise

Meeting Facilitator: Elise. My apologies, Elise.

Elise Otto: No worries. I just want to say, at first I was blown away by the thoughtful comments that have already happened. My name is Elise Otto and I'm a graduate student at Montana State University. In this divisive time we, the people of Montana, elected and appointed appointed officials and citizens are all called on to do better and to do the slow and arduous, yet honorable, work of maintaining and strengthening this democracy. I am concerned that the naming of this potential building, either for a person, family or foundation that bears the name of the man who holds the highest office in this state and was chosen by Montanans to lead us in our work in this project of life and democracy erodes an already tenuous trust in the independence of our academic institutions and the infallibility of our elected and appointed officials. It is an exceptional gift, to be sure. But Greg Gianforte is also an exceptional state employee. This is less about any rule or technicality or exception. It is about democracy and carrying out the work, carrying the work set forth by the authors of our state constitution also in the spirit and also the spirit and appearance of that work. Having a building on campus bear the name of the state's highest elected official is not in that spirit and will further erode erode the crumbling bridges of trust between the peoples and institutions of Montana. Perhaps this decision lies equally with the Governor Gianforte and his family. Considering the constitution that he swore to uphold and the duties to carry out, the name of a building is a small sacrifice when we consider what is at stake. If the gift is more about the name than it is about what the money will do for the students of Montana, then perhaps the money should be held in

endowment until there are no members of the board of the Gianforte Family Foundation Trust who are employed by the state of Montana and at that time the gift may be used and the buildings can be named as which Board of Regents sees fit.

Meeting Facilitator: Tristan Harris-Pearce?

Tristan Harris-Pearce: Hello. I'm Tristan Harris-Pearce. I am a fourth-year here at MSU. I'm getting a bachelor of fine arts in integrated lens-based media, as well as a bachelor of science and sociology. And, at MSU, I've spent the last four years dedicating my life to my fellow students to make sure that they have an environment in which they feel safe and included having focused a lot of my work on students of color and queer students as I have held multiple roles in which I am able to support these students in my community. And for me, to have a building named after somebody who would make even one student that I work with uncomfortable, feel unwelcome to go to that building, that is unacceptable, especially for a state university who wants to make each and every student that comes here feel like they belong here and that they are able to graduate and take pride in being from Montana State. So if I had even one student tell me that they would be uncomfortable walking into Gianforte Hall and have it be named that, that'd be unacceptable. And I think that if we really want to make sure that we are able to uphold everything that Montana State University is, especially our focus on our students, I think it's important to consider. How can we have a building for education if students don't want to go? That's all I have to say. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Please give me just one second to switch out the sign in sheets and we will continue. And as a reminder, if you don't want to give verbal testimony, you can do written testimony on a sheet provided there and leave it in this box. So let's see, we will go to Braeden Hunt.

Braeden Hunt: Yes.

Meeting Facilitator: Braeden Hunt? All right. All right. I—just—I am happy to have you testify. It's not going to be more than 30 minutes, is it?

Braeden Hunt: No.

Meeting Facilitator: Okay. All right. Wonderful. Please proceed.

Braeden Hunt: All right. I'm Braeden Hunt, and I'm a second-year computer science student here at MSU. I'm here to speak about how if Greg Gianforte were a student here, he would be in violation of the most important and basic characteristics that you expect students to have. Quote, the Montana State University academic community seeks to foster a campus environment conducive to academic inquiry, productive campus life and thoughtful study and discourse. The student conduct process at MSU is an educational and developmental process that balances the interests of individual students with the interests of the academic community. It exists to challenge those whose behavior is not in accordance with our policies and to foster a better understanding of expectations that exist for members of our academic community. This is Section 600 of Montana State University's Conduct Guidelines and Grievance Procedures for Students, titled Code of Student Conduct. It is the responsibility of every student at this university to read and adhere to this code. Each year it not only outlines how we as students are expected to act, but also what we should strive for or, as the handbook states, to challenge us. So then tell

me, how are we expected to strive for this excellence when the university plans to immortalize a man who con—who has and continues to violate the most violent and important clauses of our code. Section 623 Assault and Harm to Persons, Clause A, states that physical assault includes but is not limited to physical conduct of an insulting or provocative nature or physical interference with a person which causes the person to suffer actual physical injury. On May 24th, 2017, then House candidate Greg Gianforte violated this clause by attacking a journalist at his campaign headquarters who was asking about his stance on a particular issue. The journalist was thrown to the ground and punched by Gianforte, resulting in him being admitted to the hospital. Gianforte initially misled police by falsifying a statement but eventually pleaded guilty to assault. The judge later stated that his actions were, quote, totally unacceptable. If a student were to commit this same offense, they would be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion from the university. But if a donor does this, they get their name on a building in their namesake. Section 623, Assault and Harm to Persons, Clause B, Threatening and Intimidating Behaviors, defines threats as written or verbal conduct that causes a reasonable expectation of injury to the health or safety of any person and intimidation as implied threats or actions that cause a reasonable fear of harm to another. Weeks before his assault on a journalist, he made a threat to another reporter covering his town hall event in Hamilton. When a voter called the media the enemy made a neck-wringing motion, Gianforte smiled and said, quote, We have someone right here. It seems like there are more of us than there are of him, end quote, while pointing at a reporter in the crowd. There is no way of spinning this. The man that the university wants to celebrate is calling on a crowd to single out a reporter in response to a member of that same crowd threatening them. Is that what the university deems to be appropriate and, quote, thoughtful discussion and discourse? Finally, we can talk about Gianforte's tenure as our governor. In just the first year of his governorship, Gianforte signed into law anti-LGBTQ+ legislation and laws that suppress the Native American vote. Less than a week ago today, a Billings judge granted a preliminary injunction blocking a law that requires our LGBTQ+ friends and queers to undergo surgery to change their birth certificate. According to NBC Montana, Gianforte's DOJ justified this by saying that, quote, Transgender status is not a protected class in Montana, end quote. On the same day as that injunction, Gianforte signed another bill allowing businesses to challenge ordinances prohibiting discrimination when it comes to housing and employment based on sexual orientation and gender. Is it okay for us students to make it more difficult for transgender students to participate and feel welcome in our academic and extracurricular communities? Because that is exactly what Gianforte is doing to our state. Is the ideal citizen that we as students should strive to be one who breaks down the protections for LGBTQ+ peers? Because that is what you were telling us with this name honoring. He's also making it more difficult for native communities to vote. The Native American rights funds got two of Gianforte's laws enjoined in this month alone, stating that House Bill 176 and House Bill 530 are designed to take advantage of the lack of residential mail delivery, poor roads and inequitable access to election services plaguing Native communities. Such laws are unconstitutional, end quote. I hope that the university does not agree or endorse these kinds of policies. President Cruzado herself said to those members of Montana's Indigenous community at the opening of the American Indian Hall, quote, your prayers and commitment brought us to where we are today. May your children and your children's children find a home here as well. How is it that they--How is it that they are expected to feel at home here while sitting in a building named for the man trying to oppress and disenfranchise them? There is a reason the Montana Board of Regents has policies in place to not name properties and programs after currently elected officials. That is because no matter what the name is honoring, even if it's just a financial donation, it very prominently and publicly celebrates that person and by extension, what they stand for. Look at what happened to Gianforte's,

alma mater, Stevens Institute of Technology in New Jersey. They named a building Gianforte Family Hall. Today, if you Google "Gianforte Family Hall Stevens Institute," you must scroll down to the fifth result to find the first site that isn't about student protests and petitions against the naming of the building. You then must go to the second page of Google to find the next non-negative result. And this is what was--this was before he attacked a journalist. If you want to see a similar treatment to the new building on campus, go right ahead. We'll be there to protest while Gianforte continues to embarrass the university with his past and future actions. Gianforte has had a history — has had a violent and discriminatory history, and the university cannot simply ignore it in exchange for monetary contributions. He has made threats against journalists, has been convicted of assault and continues to sign anti-LGBTQ+ and racially-based voter suppression legislation. By placing Gianforte's name on a building, the university is not only condoning but endorsing and celebrating those offenses and any future ones that he may commit. Do not repeat Stevens Institute's — Institute of Technology's mistakes. Listen to your students. Do not make them study under a name that intimidates, oppresses and/or discriminates against them. I would also like to second the name proposal of Paxton Hall. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Our next person on the list is Ashton Chang? Chan. Chan. Sorry, Ashton.

Ashton Chan: All right. Hello Governor Gianforte, everyone. And my name is Ashton Chan. I am a master student in mechanical engineering here at MSU. And I would just like to say that by adding your name it would be a conflict of interest due to the current political atmosphere. And additionally, the naming does not reflect the values of MSU in regards to, in regards to how the name of a school can simply be bought through money when the strength of our school lies in multiple areas, especially at the core of it is the community and in doing so, it would go against the ... And in naming the school after you, your family, it would go against the interests of our democracy. My undergraduate school was bought out by New York University, and it was once called and it was once called Polytechnic University. And it was bought and renamed to NYU Tandon for the price of \$50 million. What resulted was a bitter resentment towards the local community and also, also there was definitely a there was a rise in tuition prices and a lot of the locals were displaced from the school. Though it was, although it is currently a highly ranked school it came at a huge cost of the people there, the local community. And I would also like to end this on a positive note that I would like to thank you for your support and generous donation. But please, I urge you to preserve our democracy and allow us to keep our community by keeping your name away from this political debate. Thank you very much.

Meeting Facilitator: Well, I must apologize. The last name is Hughes. The first name is Ma Qua Vian? Am I anywhere close?

Marquayvion Hughes: Marquayvion Hughes

Meeting Facilitator: Marquayvion Hughes. Thank you. My apologies.

Marquayvion Hughes: No, no problem. I understand. Hi. My name is Marquayvion Hughes. I'm a political science student at Montana State University, and I am in complete opposition to this. I have been a proud student of this university for three years and I have been fighting for diversity and diversity and equality the entire way. To name this building Gianforte Hall would be a slap in the face to all the students of color and the students that are LGBTQ advocates on this campus. We cannot, as a university, continue to take one

step forward and four steps back. As a person of color is already very hard to feel like you fit in on this campus. And as a queer person of color, it is immensely harder at this point in time I wish to continue my academic excellence here as I have in the past three years, but considering the way this university is turning, it is making me genuinely sad that I am here. I do not wish for this to be named this and I will be in opposition and the entire way. I have a friend, Jack Pearlman, my colleague, he has a proposed ... Excuse me... Yeah, he has a proposed resolution that he would like to propose once he gets the floor. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: The. Okay. The handwriting. I'm. I'm doing my best. And I believe the first name is Thomas. And the second name looks like it starts with the C, C, C or I. Okay. Could you indulge me now?

Thomas Cuezze: Thomas Cuezze. Yes.

Meeting Facilitator: Thomas Cuezze, welcome. Thank you. My apologies.

Thomas Cuezze: Yeah, my name is Thomas Cuezze. I'm a freshman here at Montana State University and I would actually like to speak in support of the naming proposal. I totally sympathize with those who think that Greg Gianforte is, but, like frankly a bad person, that he's done awful things and that he's not someone we should be proud to have a building named after on our campus. But I also think that there's a time to be pragmatic with these kind of things. \$50 million is an enormous amount of money. A new building is an enormous resource for students on campus and Montana State University will be able to provide so much better of an education to so many students because of this donation, and especially with a degree like computer science, which leads to really good paying careers and really can help pull people out of poverty I think that to say that the principal stance is to turn these things down because of the name of a building: I think that's wrong. I think that, sure, Greg Gianforte, maybe not a great governor, maybe not a great person, but his \$50 million means that we'll be able to provide an education to so many students who wouldn't get it otherwise and help pull people out of poverty and help give students the education they want. And sure, maybe it's vain to want a building named after you in exchange for your donation, but who cares? It's \$50 million. That's such an enormous amount of money that we'll be able to do such good things with and I think the thing to do here is to take his money and run with it, help educate people, help pull people out of poverty, help bring people who wouldn't be able to come to this campus otherwise to this campus and help actually provide an education. And that means we have to slap a sign in the building with his name on it, I think that's a sacrifice that we should be willing to make. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Alex Newby? Is Alex Newby here?

Alex Newby: I am. So, hello, everyone. My name's Alex Newby. I'm a master's student in Native American Studies. There is a song talking about what you just mentioned it goes "go on, take the money and run." Oh, man, I don't know, I feel like the Board of Regents has really got itself in a pickle right now. Name that building after Greg Gianforte and money and bills that support the university system might pass into law no problem. But it kind of looks like bribery. Naming it something else risks policies and maybe money, but particularly policies being signed into law that really hurt our education system. So how did the Board of Regents allow us to get in this position? I recognize that maybe when Greg Gianforte offered the money he wasn't governor and, you know, none of us could foresee

that he would be elected, but that is now the case and so it's a ... it's it's a very strange position to be in. And I feel like it's kind of a catastrophic conflict of interest. So I can see why we're having trouble with this issue, but I got a couple of good solutions. You know, we could really honor Greg Gianforte by instead of just naming a building after him, naming like a whole part of campus after him. So here's my proposal: Let's name family, graduate housing Gianforte Family Graduate Housing. I live there. I don't have a problem with it. I know that our university president has probably spent a lot of time down there and knows, you know, what it looks like, the pleasing place that it is. And so I feel like this is a great solution to solve this problem. Let's not just name a building after him, let's name the whole family graduate housing area after Greg Gianforte. That's one good idea. I do have another idea. Maybe we should name the hall after Greg Gianforte. I also heard that there's proposals to name it Cutthroat Hall. What if we name it Gianforte Cutthroat Hall? I think that, you know, that would be a cool way to honor like our state fish, which is an awesome fish, and I mean, it would give it a cool little twist. So that's also a possibility. But there is one other possibility that we might also consider, and that is, I don't know who ... Mr. ... is it Paxton? Dr. Paxton? I don't know who that is. That could be a very good idea. I probably support that idea. There's one other we could do that would be let's name the hall after a significant person in indigenous history in Montana. Maybe Governor Gianforte would support that idea and we could honor someone who has made an impact on this land that has impacted us through generations. I feel like \$50 million is yeah, it's a generous gift from somebody who can afford to give it. So, I, you know, naming something after him, you know, aside from the Gianforte cutthroat idea, seems very problematic and I am asking the Board of Regents to not do that. And you're going to have to figure out how to fix the problem that you allow yourself to get into. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Please give me just a second. I got to get ... Is Robin Johnson still here?

Robin Johnson: Hi. My name is Robin Johnson, and I'm fourth generation Montanan and longtime resident of Bozeman. I just want to say to the regents thank you for serving in this capacity for our great state of Montana. On this issue please do not glorify Greg Gianforte by allowing his name to be on the proposed new computer science building. My reasons for this view are as follows: Number one: Mr. Gianforte's name is already a part of the university. Having been accepted is the name of the School of Computing in 2016. If recognition is the goal, he has already been recognized. When we consider those in our society with extreme wealth and this would include Mr. Gianforte, whose net worth is estimated to be \$135 million we must consider how much glorification and recognition should be given because of one's wealth. And where should, or would, it stop? He is in the position to continue to give money to MSU in future years. How many programs or buildings should be named for one individual? If he gave enough for ten buildings, should we then rename the university to recognize this wealthy donor? And how much control or power would he feel he has over decisions made within said programs and buildings? Or how much political sway would he begin to hold over the university's leaders. As our society evolves to be one of extreme income inequality I think these are questions we should be asking ourselves. As we all know, money breeds power, especially politically. And I just have to wonder how much prestige and power does MSU want to bestow on one man? It is a slippery slope that should be avoided. Number two: Gianforte is a sitting political leader serving as governor. The Montana Board of Regents naming policy clearly states naming of property or programs after elected officials is not allowed. I understand that because the gift is in the Gianforte Family Foundation name MSU feels this naming is acceptable. I disagree. Follow the policy. It was written for a reason. It is obvious that Gianforte has name recognition and when someone sees the name on a building reading

Gianforte Hall, they are not thinking of his children or his wife. They will immediately recognize Governor Gianforte as the elected official with the deep pockets seeking prestige. He will probably be running for higher offices and having a name, and the building named after him, would surely help. Should the university system be helping him? Contrast this with Norm Asbjornson's gift. He was a retired engineer with no future political ambitions. Completely different motivations, in my opinion. It really rubs me the wrong way that MSU is willing to find a loophole on this issue. The program already bears his name. That is enough. Follow the policy as it is written. Number three: Mr. Gianforte has a history of assault on a reporter in 2017. This is public record. This behavior is unbecoming and unacceptable for a person you are considering naming a building after. A name on a building brings glorification, honor, recognition, power and prestige as well as a place in history. Mr. Gianforte, Mr. Gianforte already earned his place in history as the Montana candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives who lost control and body slammed a reporter who was interviewing him. It is sickening to rewatch this video. Have you forgotten? Our then President Trump praised his behavior as if this strong man behavior is how we solve problems. Is this what MSU wants to be associated with? This was an embarrassment to our great state and always will be. By signing State Senate Bill 215, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act into 2021, Mr. Gianforte publicly supported discriminatory practices largely against the LGBTQ community. His religious views are extremely conservative and are a main driver of his political positions. He is not a good representative of the views of many of his constituents. Having buildings bearing his name is problematic and controversial. I kindly request that you consider my views and forgo naming the new building after Mr. Gianforte for all of the reasons listed. Express your gratitude in other ways, but do not put his tainted name on a building. Your actions today matter and will impact generations to come. If this building bears his name students and parents touring MSU years into the future will wonder "Who is this Mr. Gianforte? What was he famous for other than his wealth?" Their Google searches will bring up assault. Let's be proud, not embarrassed of the people whose names are in place on our university buildings. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Hmm. Okay. The first name is, I'm pretty sure, starts with the C. The last name may start with a W or an M. Um, they have a ...

Cara Wilder: -- unintelligible --

Meeting Facilitator: Okay. All right. Cara Wilder, thank you. And my apologies.

Cara Wilder: That's all right. Um, I am a teacher at Gallatin College and my son is a freshman here at MSU. Thank you for listening to us today. I would like to register my strong opposition to naming the building after Mr. Gianforte. Firstly, I don't believe any hall on campus should be named after any politician, regardless which side of the aisle they're on if they're still serving in that office or regardless of how much money they give the current policy states a building may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently employed by the university system or the state of Montana, including statewide elected offices ... officials, excuse me until one year after the end of their term. And this policy should not be broken simply due to the size of the donation. That is basic pay-for-play, quid pro quo. So only the highest bidders get their names on buildings that MSU? So it follows then that if Senator Jon Tester gives \$50 billion for a new building we'll have Tester Hall across campus from Gianforte Hall? And where does that end? Donations made by politicians should be accepted as a gift to the college and its students with absolutely zero strings attached. A plaque outside of the building acknowledging the donation should be more than suffice. If it doesn't, then that indicates the donation was

made in the spirit of self-recognition by the donor, not a selfless donation to the students. Aside from not breaking policy rules as a current Gallatin College instructor, I am absolutely opposed to naming anything for Mr. Gianforte. MSU is an institution of higher learning, a place of academics and science and intellectual pursuits. Gianforte is the antithesis of all of those things. He rejects science. He is a known liar and has been convicted of assault. He believes people and dinosaurs coexisted and funded a museum that states that as fact. He actively disenfranchises marginalized populations and seeks to destroy the idea of government for the people and replace it with increasing power and profits for the ultra rich. It would be absolutely shameful if MSU abandons organizational ethics so Gianforte can buy his name on a building. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Jack Pearlman, are you here?

Jack Pearlman: Hello. My name is Jack Pearlman and I'm currently serving as the ASMSU Business Senator. And I would like to start by saying that I was saddened to hear that this was being considered based off of Board of Regents current policy. And furthermore, I heard that that the donation had a possibility of being pulled if the name is not going for as being Gianforte Hall. I don't like the fact that donations ever have strings attached when it comes to education. You should be funding education because it is what will benefit the community the most. As such, I brought forward a resolution to the ASMSU Senate that will be voted on tomorrow that I would like to read out: The Associated Students of Montana State University opposed to Montana State University plan to name a new computing hall, Gianforte Hall. Whereas MSU states its values to be excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity and student stewardship. Whereas Greg Gianforte has said there are some basic things that are required of a free market to prosper and some of these things don't exist on our reservations. That list includes a consistent rule of law, respect for private property and a lack of nepotism and a cultural norm that celebrates success. Whereas additionally, a large percentage of MSU students are ethnically Native American -- 5%. The inclusion of this group on campus is of high importance. Whereas Greg Gianforte has also pled guilty to an assault charge which stemmed from assaulting a reporter which similarly, similarly doesn't fit with within MSU's values. Whereas furthermore, the Montana Board of Regents code states property, property and programs requiring board approval may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently employed by the MUS or the State of Montana, including, but not limited to the state, to statewide or federal elected or appointed officials and candidates for elected, statewide or federal office who have announced or filed for office. Whereas Greg Gianforte's donation is considerable and does deserve recognition such as a plaque that can be placed in the new building. Whereas names that would honor this great state and be consistent with those above mentioned values. I suggest Bitterroot Hall, the state flower, Cutthroat Hall, the state fish, or Meadowlark Hall, the state bird. We, the Associated Students of Montana State University, do not believe that Greg Gianforte represents the above mentioned values with his actions or statements. Let it be further resolved, as ASMSU strongly opposes the naming of the new computer call to be named Greg Gianforte Hall. I would like to conclude with saying that I would draw issue if it was to be named after any politician from either side of the aisle. The problem comes with where are the motives coming from, especially if you're going to put, uh, especially if going forward, are you going to use it as leverage in further political campaign? Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: At this point, if you are in the audience and you would like to give public testimony, could you please approach the podium and say your name?

Brian Rossman: My name is Brian Rossman. I'm a faculty member and administrator here at Montana State University. I oppose the naming of the building naming the building after Greg Gianforte. For many of the good reasons that have been given today have been articulated very well. So I'm not going to belabor that. But there's one point that hasn't been made, and this is something I'd like to say directly to the Board of Regents themselves and that is that several of you have been appointed to the Board of Regents by Governor Gianforte. And I think there is an inherent conflict of interest in you weighing in on your decision as to whether to name a building after him. I think that to do so would be unethical. And I would urge you, those of you who have been appointed by Governor Gianforte to recuse yourselves from this decision. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Are there others who would like to give public testimony? Please come to the podium. Yeah.

Jack Pearlman: Could I read out public comment that was sent to me.

Meeting Facilitator: Yes. Or you can also send it to the following address. Is it short?

Jack Pearlman: Oh, yes.

Meeting Facilitator: Okay. If it's short, could you just make sure that you read the name of the person providing the public comment and spell their name, please?

Will Shepard's comments as read by Jack Pearlman: It's from Will Shepard. W i l l .
Last name s h e p a r d .

Will Shepard's comments as read by Jack Pearlman: Correct. Yes. A handful of years ago, the Koch brothers tried to get their name plastered all around the school and on buildings. MSU said no to that as they didn't want the Koch brother's influence to be known to everyone. Gianforte Hall immediately makes the university take a stance on current and further political ideologies. This is not a bridge the university should ever cross. The same goes for any Democratic figures named the school might consider putting on a building. There is no reason to name this building Gianforte Hall. Monetary donations simply do not suffice as a reason it should be named Gianforte Hall. The fact remains that there are quite literally thousands of other names that could adorn this building and would be far more appropriate than Gianforte. Cutthroat Hall is an excellent place to start and would be in no way controversial. Keep Gianforte's name off of school buildings.

Emma Keating: Hi there. My name is Emma Keating

Meeting Facilitator: I'm sorry. I'm a little slow. Could you do the last name again?

Emma Keating: Keating k e a t i n g . And you know, I came to this meeting on a whim. I was invited by my friends who are very politically active, but I did not know anything about this subject until coming here. And one point that I have not noticed in this discussion, in this debate today is the future impacts of naming this hall after Gianforte family. I have learned a lot through this meeting about Governor Gianforte's history with assault and his convictions of assault, his anti-LGBT legislation and bills and anti-trans restrictions. And I have learned a lot about his policies. And from this, I think that naming the hall after the Gianforte family is a risky move for Montana State University and for the Board of Regents. This is because Gianforte has gotten away with assault charges and continues to hold public office. He's also emboldened by making previous legislation against minority

groups. And what's to say that he won't do more in the future? Naming this hall after Gianforte would be a risky move in the case that he does something in the future that tarnishes the name of this university. So for that reason, I think that this is a risky move that the university should not do. Thank you.

Meeting Facilitator: Is there other public testimony? Is there other public testimony? Last call is their other public testimony. It is 531 And so seeing no further public testimony, we will conclude tonight's public hearing. Thank you all for attending.

I would like to voice my strong objection to the Board of Regents' potential naming of a building on the MSU campus after our current governor in return for a \$50 million donation. Don't be fooled - he is doing nothing more than attempting to buy votes for any future run for a political position. He did the same thing with an \$8 million donation in his 2016 unsuccessful gubernatorial bid, after which the Board of Regents established a policy of not allowing a standing politician to have a building named for him while in office. Now, a mere six years later, you are considering reversing that policy. What does that say about the credibility of the Board?

A university is a place where young men and women learn how to do positive things for our world - design buildings that withstand earthquakes, send men to the moon, develop equipment and methods to eradicate deadly illnesses, learn to predict where and when a severe hurricane will hit, cultivate the land to feed our rapidly-growing population. It is not meant to cater to a power-hungry, corrupt political party that is anti-science, anti-education, anti-diverse, anti-values, anti-equal rights, and unethical. They have no business attempting to influence what and how universities teach, which is exactly what this governor's party is hoping to do all over the country. They are already trying to do it at the public education level. .

I hope that the Board of Regents, as the governing body of our university system, is intelligent enough not to fall for a wolf in sheep's clothing and courageous enough to prevent allowing this initial attempt to weaken the credibility of our Montana university system. Please vote against naming a building for our governor, at least until he is no longer a politician (which is what your current policy dictates).

Lorraine Ekegren, 509 Amsterdam Blvd, Belgrade, MT (2 degrees from MSU + 19 years of teaching public speaking at MSU)

Please Approve the Naming of the Proposed Computer Science Building at Montana State University “Gianforte Hall”

I am writing to urge the Board of Regents to agree to name the proposed, new computer science building at Montana State University being funded by the Gianforte Family Foundation, “Gianforte Hall”.

I am fortunate to be a Montana State University alumnus in Chemical Engineering, a member of the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering Advisory Council and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Montana State University Alumni Foundation Board of Governors. During my years of service to the University, I have witnessed the transformative nature of the many generous gifts the Gianforte family has bestowed on the University, and the computer science discipline, in particular. The Gianforte family has consistently supported higher education in Montana through their many generous gifts for more than two decades.

The \$50 million Gianforte Family Foundation gift is another transformative gift which would allow the University to continue to dramatically expand computer science and complimentary interdisciplinary offerings to future generations of students. The proposed construction of the new computer science building would continue to build on their previous gifts to the Gianforte School of Computing and other generous gifts to Montana State University by the Gianforte family. A transformative gift of this nature would not only expand computer science education, but would provide long term, impactful benefits to the State of Montana in terms of potential business growth and employment for decades to come.

The Montana University System is extremely fortunate to have so many generous donors that are willing to invest in educating future generations of students to the benefit of our great State and Nation. The Montana University System has a long history of naming colleges and buildings after generous benefactors that provide transformative gifts to Montana State University, including the Gianforte School of Computing, the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, Jake Jabs Hall, the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering, Norm Asbjornson Hall and the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing.

I urge the Board of Regents to agree to name the proposed, new computer science building “Gianforte Hall” to recognize both the generous and transformative nature of the gift, but also the long history of generous support the Gianforte family has provided to Montana State University, and through expanding higher education in our State, to all Montanans.

Very truly yours,
William Sanderson
Lakeside, Montana

Dear Board of Regents,

I am a recent graduate from Montana State University (MSU) with a PhD in Mathematics. As someone who deeply cares about MSU becoming a more diverse, inclusive, and equitable institution, I am writing this letter to advocate against naming a new building on campus ``Gianforte Hall”.

MSU states on the website that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) is “vitaly important”, and “We will continuously promote a culture of intellectual and personal growth for all, attuned to the importance of differences in age, race, ..., sex, gender expression, gender identity, sexual orientation, ...” (<https://www.montana.edu/diversity/>) However, Greg Gianforte and the Gianforte Family Foundation does not emulate these values as seen through the governor’s anti-LGBTQ+ policies, views, violence, and previous organizations the foundation has supported. Some examples include:

- Limiting trans-students’ rights to participate in sports and correct their birth certificate.
- Financially supporting organizations such as the Montana Family Foundation which is the state’s primary anti-LGBTQ+ advocate.
- Financially supporting the Family Research Council which is classified as an anti-LGBTQ+ hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center.
- Pleading guilty to assaulting a reporter after being asked a question about health care policy in 2017.

As a former student who often interacted with the Gianforte School of Computing, I know students in computer science who identify as trans and/or LGBTQ+. These students do not feel that MSU values them because they are part of a department named after a family that wants to limit their civil rights, and instead of MSU trying to change that, MSU is doing the opposite by strongly considering naming an entire building after Gianforte. The governor is widely known across the country for his assault against a reporter and anti-LGBTQ+ views. This discourages prospective LGBTQ+ students, staff, faculty, and allies from attending or working at MSU. In return, MSU will lose much talent it could have had, and take many steps backwards in its DEI efforts.

Additionally, I strongly oppose naming a building after a current political figure. Although, the donation is from the Gianforte Family Foundation, and not solely Governor Greg Gianforte, people will immediately think of Greg Gianforte whenever they see the name “Gianforte” around campus. As a former math instructor at MSU, I often attended meetings where the presenter emphasized that discussing politics and endorsing political figures in the classroom is inappropriate and makes some students feel unsafe. I value this sentiment and encourage the university to follow through on this value by not naming a building “Gianforte Hall”.

Greg Gianforte and the Gianforte Family Foundation contradict the values of MSU. Although, I appreciate the foundation’s donation to support the university, there is no need to name a building after the donors. Naming campus buildings after people are viewed as endorsements whether it is intentional or not. Naming a building after Gianforte sends a message that MSU cares more about money than DEI or being politically neutral. I encourage MSU to prioritize its value of DEI by not naming a future building on campus ``Gianforte Hall.”

Sincerely,
Robin Belton



Big Sky Country
MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Representative Sue Vinton
Majority Leader
House District 56

DURING THE SESSION
State Capitol Building
PQ Box 200400
Helena MT 59620-0400
Phone: (406) 444-4800
leg.mt.gov

HOME ADDRESS
5115 High Trail Rd.
Billings MT 59101
Phone: (406) 855-2625
sue.vinton@mtleg.gov

University Communications
c/o Naming Comments
PO Box 172220
Bozeman, MT 59717-2220

via E-mail: msunews@montana.edu

Re: Naming Gianforte Hall

Dear Chairman Lozar and Regents:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer this letter in support of naming the new building which will house the MSU Gianforte School of Computing as Gianforte Hall. I have reviewed Policy 1004.1 in its entirety and firmly believe that the Gianforte Family's significant gift of \$50,000,000 warrants this recognition.

The Gianforte family has demonstrated numerous times their commitment to public education in Montana. The Montana University System and thousands of students from within Montana, as well as those that choose to further their education here from other parts of the country have benefitted from the generosity of the Gianforte family. This particular gift, "one of the largest philanthropic gifts in the history of Montana" is certainly one that should be honored and recognized with the naming of the new building Gianforte Hall.

I appreciate the work that you do for our students and our citizens. Thank you again for the opportunity to voice my support for Gianforte Hall.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sue Vinton".

Sue Vinton



Montana Board of Regents | Public Comment Sign-in Sheet

Please sign in if you wish to make public comment. **Please limit your public comment to 3 minutes as a courtesy to others who wish to speak.** Public comment will be recorded, and a transcript provided to the Montana Board of Regents. You may also submit written comment in addition to, or in lieu of, public comment.

	First Name	Last Name	Email Address:
1.	David	Parker	✓ davidcw parker@gmail.com
2.	Rob	WARSON	✓ rk2zraach@gmail.com
3.	Braden	Hunt	✓ bjhunt918@gmail.com
4.	Mary	Brutger	✓ marybrutger@gmail.com
5.	Carl	Anderson	✓ carl.anderson0107@gmail.com
6.	Madelyn	Mettler	✓ madelyn mettler@montana.edu
7.	Cole	Shultz	✓ coleshultz26@gmail.com
8.	Bau	Sauvage	✓ bauwows@gmail.com
9.	Elise Mann	Otto Lemos	✓ otto.Elise@gmail.com
10.	Tristan	Harris-Pearce	✓ tharrispearce@gmail.com
11.	BRADEN	HUNT	→
12.		- end -	
13.			
14.			
15.			



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First Name	Last Name	Email Address:
1. Ashton	Chan ✓	ashchan6@gmail.com
2. Marquayvion	Hughes ✓	
3. Thomas	Cuezzze ✓	+Cuezzze@gmail.com
4. Alex	Newby ✓	
5.	Emil - /	
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	First Name	Last Name	Email Address:
31.	Robin	Johnson	✓ robinj6886@gmail.com
32.	Cara	Wilder	✓ wilder1world@gmail.com
33.	JACK	PEARLMAN	✓ JACK.Pearlman@gmail.com
34.	-	and -	
35.	BRANU	ROSSMAN	✓ @montana.edu
36.	WILL	SHEPARD (VIA JACK)	✓ student
37.	EMMA	KEATING	✓
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42.			
43.			
44.			
45.			

From: TJ Cape <capefam@rangeweb.net>

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 1:06 PM

To: Regent Brianne Rogers <RegentRogers@montana.edu>

Subject: Gianforte Computer Building

I 110% support naming the new computer building after Gianforte.

Anyone who donates that much money to the university for a new building certainly deserves to have it named after them. He has done a lot to bring jobs and industry to the state of Montana. Naming a building after him is the least you can do to honor him.

Theresa Gillin Cape

MSU Alumni

Class of 1976 - Microbiology



MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF HIGHER EDUCATION

560 North Park Ave – PO Box 203201 – Helena, MT 59620-3201
Phone (406) 449-9124 – Fax (406) 449-9171

Written Testimony Form

This form may be used to submit written public comment to the Board of Regents (BOR). Please note that all comments will be distributed to the BOR. All comments are subject to public disclosure pursuant to Montana's public records laws. Please leave a copy of this form with BOR staff or submit via email to jacasanovas@montana.edu.

As a computer science alum I've had many opportunities to meet Mr. Gianforte over a couple decades now. I formed my opinion of his character long before he entered politics. It's long galled me that he's bought such a deep entanglement with our CS department.

But my personal judgement is less relevant than the bare politics of the situation. As a politician Governor Gianforte inherently represents the portion of Montana that supports him — not the rest of Montana.

This is fundamentally incompatible with MSU's mission to serve the whole state.

Aaron D. Hall

PRINT NAME

SIGNATURE

From: Sharol Hall <sharol999@gmail.com>
Subject: Naming a hall for Greg Gianforte
Date: April 30, 2022 at 1:49:59 PM MDT
To: msunews@montana.edu

To Whom It May Concern:

University Communications, c/o
Naming Comments
P.O. Box 172220
Bozeman, MT 59717

I am 81 years old and a Montana native living in Bozeman. I lived out of state for 26 years so came back with a different prospective on many things.

It just came to my attention that there is consideration of naming a hall after Governor Greg Gianforte by The Board of Regents. This is extremely concerning to me, students, professors and many more.

It is quite obvious this is about how much money he has donated to the University over the years and has nothing to do about what he has done for the people of Montana. It's all about power and his personal agenda which is obvious based on what he has done being Governor. Based on what he has done he violates Montana law because he thinks he can. He is not a native of Montana and is a billionaire based on the sale of his company. He has wanted to mess with our public lands to give private access to his millionaire and political friends. Another example of not caring for the average Montana resident. What is sad many rural people have no idea what he is up to.

I know you know what I'm about to go over:

1. In 2017 on the eve of special election Gianforte assaulted a reporter because he did didn't like the question he asked regarding health care legislation. He was charged with misdemeanor assault and got a slap on the wrists.
2. March 1, 2022 Gianforte shot and killed a mountain lion that was being tracked by National Parks. Hound dogs caused the mountain lion up a tree and it was shot. Now this is what I call hunting and must be for a trophy.
3. In 2021 Gianforte shot and killed a black wolf in violation of Montana regulations on property owned by Robert Smith and director of Sinclair Broadcasting. Another billionaire.

This is what we publicly know about this man since he got into politics 5 years ago. Were there others before that we don't know about? These 3 items are enough to disqualify him with a name on a University hall. Laws are to be abided by all citizens including the wealthy and politicians.

I'm going to list what he has signed in 2021 State Legislature which does not benefit the average Montana resident and is based on a political agenda.

1. Restricted voting access by ending same day voter registration and requiring new voter ID requirements. These unfairly affect students and indigenous peoples the most. (HB176, SB169).
2. Repealed or altered laws previously approved by voters, made it harder for Montanans to write law through citizen initiatives. HB176, HB273, HB701, HB651.
3. Undercut local control. County health officials now have less authority to protect your neighbors during the ongoing COVID pandemic. HB121, HB257, HB702. City governments no longer can establish inclusionary zoning...A way to assure affordable housing which we desperately need. HB259
4. Cut taxes for the rich, cost in the state coffers \$50 million per year, leaving tax burdens to fall on the working class. I guess he got his taxes cut. SB159, SB399.
5. Limited women's right-to-privacy and reproductive rights. HB136, HB140, HB167, HB171
6. Harmed LGBTQ youth. HR112, SB280

6. Harmed LGBTQ youth HB112, SB280

6. Named LGBT youth. HB112, SB200

7. Added cumbersome bureaucracy to Medicaid, which results in thousands of Montanans being kicked off with no savings to the state SB101

8. Lowered water-quality standards. HB358

9. Removed protections for wolves and other wildlife. HB224. I'm not sure what he has against our beautiful Montana but makes me so sad and all done so he can go out and kill more.

He also passed a gun law where University students could pack guns. Why, Why, Why. I'm not sure where this law is as it went to the Montana Supreme Court. The gun situation is truly devastating for not only Montana residents but throughout our country.

Back a few years he received an honorary alumni degree and the technology building was named after him. Enough! It's great when you receive millions of dollars for your school but does not mean a person undeserving should get recognition.

What happened to honoring Montana people for having a high degree of INTEGRITY and CHARACTER and do good for their fellow man. This cannot be about giving Gianforte a hall named after him for giving your school money. My personal opinion is he has none of the above attributes and absolutely has no class.

Sincerely,
Sharol Hall

April 28, 2022

University Communications

c/o Naming Comments

P. O. Box 172220

Bozeman, MT 59717

I was so disappointed in my University today! In 2020 husband and I celebrated our 50 year anniversary since graduating from M.S.U. in 1970. Our three sons and two daughters-in-law graduated from M.S.U. and this coming fall our first grandchild will enroll in the College of Engineering.

To read such disparaging comments ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE BOZEMAN CHRONICLE about the family who donated \$50 million to our University for the construction of a building for computer science was disgusting. Especially when the worst of those comments came from David Parker a professor in our very university!

I do not remember having such a discussion when Norm Asbjornson donated \$50 million for our beautiful new engineering building. I don't think there was any debate or discussion about whether the political science department agreed with his politics or personal beliefs!

Regardless of the amount donated or political beliefs of the donor when our university receives such a valuable gift, of course, we should honor them with name recognition. Let's do the right thing and forget politics for once.

Sincerely,



Jean Neil

30 Churn Creek Drive

Bozeman, Mt 59715

CC: Dr. Waded Cruzado



24 April 2022

University Communications
40 Naming Comments
P.O. Box 172220
Bozeman, MT 59717

Re: Naming of the new Computer Building

As the University has a policy regarding naming buildings, abide by it, otherwise why have a policy at all?

I believe a donation should be without expectations.

I agree with the Student Senators Assessment and their objections, as per the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, to this proposed name.

Send a thank you for the generous donation and move on!

Respectfully,

Elinor Bowles

ELINOR M. BOWLES

UNIVERSITY COMMUNICATIONS - APRIL 24, 2022
C/O NAMING COMMENTS -

- MONTANA AND MSU IS NOT FOR SALE
AS A OBVIOUS POLITICAL GAIN!!

- NEVER!! "MEADOW LARK HALL"

REPRESENTS A TRUE, - ORIGINAL,
MONTANA TRADITIONAL PROPER NAME,

- FOREVER!! (THINK ABOUT THIS).

- MY CHOICE -

RICHARD L. LEASE, - MONTANA NATIVE
FOR 84 YEARS, BOZEMAN RESIDENT
SINCE 1960, - "THANK YOU"
MSU FOR ALL THE GREAT
MEMORIES OF THE PAST 62 YEARS!!

Richard L. Lease
ALWAYS A FAIRFIELD EAGLE

Thank you for requesting input on the naming of a new computer building to be constructed after the Gianforte Family donated fifty million dollars. I questioned naming any academic hall after a person who deliberately shot and destroyed the research of two collared animals from YNP. Consider the work these scientists were doing and sharing. Why then honor someone by naming a building after them when they likely saw the collars of the animals they shot, thus knowingly destroying the research of others? It begs the question is money more important, or the research the university supports?

I appreciate you taking an interest of what the community finds important. My husband taught for 16 years at TAMU before moving here 35 years ago. He was a professor at MSU for 10 years before retiring. Education is at the heart of our family. Our daughters and grand daughters are teachers and soil and science researchers. I hope the name of the building will inspire students and faculty in their learning and research rather than rewarding a monetary donation.

Sincerely,



Mary Fellenz

4-24-22

4-24-2022

MSU Communications,

I am responding to your request for comment regarding the naming of a hall in honor of Mr. Gianforte.

I AM ADITMATLY OPPOSED TO THIS MOVE!!!!!!

My husband graduated from MSU with a masters and we have been supporters of the university for many years. Although \$50 million is a large gift, there are many who teach, attend, and lend their support to MSU, who DO NOT agree with our governors' policies or actions. Lending Mr. Gianforte's' name to any of your buildings speaks volumes to those who possess the ways and means to bolster their political influence and power.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Mrs. Carol A. Buchanan
Box 467
Manhattan, MT. 59741



Ellig, Tracy

From: President Cruzado
Sent: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 6:39 AM
To: Ellig, Tracy
Subject: FW: MSU Computer Building Naming

On 4/26/22, 1:04 PM, "ddoug129@yahoo.com" <ddoug129@yahoo.com> wrote:

Dear President Cruzado:

Governor Gianforte has formulated and passed anti-LGBTQ bills I think 17 in total and this is the result. The suicide and murder rate for LGBTQ kids is sadly high. When you single out people and pass laws against a group of people for having a different orientation like Governor Gianforte has you are making life difficult for them. But it goes beyond that. Gianforte is dehumanizing them and he won't stop. He is passing laws to single out and hurt LGBTQ youth. Dehumanizing groups is nothing less than a tactic used by governments to liquidate and annihilate groups they are don't approve of and are threatened by.

Gianforte's war against the LGBTQ community is despicable. This man is on a campaign to marginalize and liquidate trans-gender Montanans. Governor Gianforte seems to be obsessed with hurting kids who don't fit in to his narrow and bigoted values.

To name a building on the MSU campus after Governor Gianforte would be reprehensible. By doing so you would be tacitly endorsing his hate. Please don't do this. Please look for another person or group to donate.

Thank you for listening. I appreciate your consideration.

Best wishes,

Douglas Dietsch
Parent of 3 MSU Graduates



By – Orion Rummler, The 19th

By – Kate Sosin, The 19th

2021 is now the deadliest year on record for transgender people

Nation Nov 18, 2021 4:40 PM EDT

This article was originally published by [The 19th](#) on November 9,

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Left: People hold photos of murdered transgender people, during the Queer Liberation March in New York on June 27, 2021. Photo by Timothy A. Clary/AFP via Getty Images

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Chappelle's anti-transgender comments in Netflix special draws protest

By Alex Veiga, Lynn Elber, Associated Press

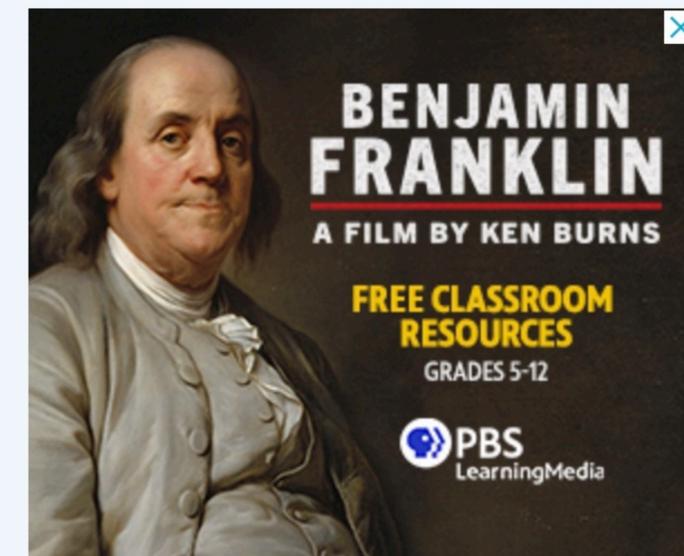
Texas is pushing the most anti-trans bills in the country. Advocates fear deadly consequences.

By Orion Rummler, The 19th

More Americans now know transgender people, but most still don't seem to understand them

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Dear Ms. Ellig and MSU President Cruzado,

I am a 1970's graduate of the Montana University System. I find it troublesome not to seriously question this large donation by our current Montana governor, who will likely seek a second term in 2024.

Besides the political conflict of interest that this donation would present for any governor of either party, the following facts and concerns specifically associated with Gov. Gianforte need to be considered before accepting the Gianforte Family Foundation donation:

1. Greg Gianforte has spent several millions of dollars of his own money in two attempts to eventually win the governorship. Greg was the wealthiest U.S. House Representative in 2017. Money buys power and influence in America.
2. He has lost the popular vote in Gallatin County (Bozeman) for the governorship not once, but twice.
3. He has signed several bills (now in the courts) that challenge the 1972 Montana Constitution, which has been hailed across the country as a model constitution for other states.
Many Montanans are not too happy about that, or the governor's defiance against CDC and other health care experts' recommendations associated with Covid-19 and its variants.
4. The Gianforte Family Foundation has funded some organizations whose work, many believe, is in direct challenge to American citizen's rights protected by our U.S. Constitution.

So you see, it is not too hard to feel that political points, especially in Gallatin County (Bozeman), are certainly to be gained by the governor's (foundation) donation to MSU as 2024 fast approaches.

Large donation sources need to be scrutinized for legitimacy and appropriateness. As sad as it is to democracy, individual wealth can buy power and influence in America.

Sincerely, Rick Kerr
Choteau, MT

Ellig, Tracy

From: sandy kempa <sekempa19@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 12, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Ellig, Tracy
Cc: Sandy Kempa
Subject: Gianforte Foundation Gift

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a member of the MSU Alumni Association for many years; and have been relatively proud to be so, until now. However,

the recent news story about the Gianforte Foundation gift to MSU for construction of a new building for computing and related

fields, in the Gianforte name, has me somewhat concerned.

I have concerns about such a huge amount from a Republican Governor's Foundation; having a great deal of influence, politically, in the present and in the future. Would not this kind of donation be more appropriate, when he is not in office?

As a long-time Democrat; I have often felt, that we have been disregarded in many policies and actions, taken by his

party. While, the University surely wants that large gift; I have reservations. I am wondering, if I am the only alumni; who also feels this way.

Thank you for your consideration of my concerns!

Sincerely,

Sandra Spears Kempa
Montana State College Class of 1963

Subject: Gianforte boiling

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 1:35:02 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Pete Melniker

To: MSU News

To the Montana Board of Regents

I am a MSU alumni (1988) and created the Mark Jasmann Scholarship in the College of Agriculture. I endorse naming the building after the Gianforte Family. It would not be fair where you named a building for Jake Jabs and Norm Asbjornson for donations that were less or equal to the Gianforte donation. Looking to the future of donations to all of the universities in Montana many people may not be as willing to donate if the recognition of their gift by naming a building is not achieved. It is a small gesture by the university, but is a long term recognition to the donor and it reminds all of the students to know who helped to fund their university. Many people do not want the Gianforte name on the building due to political reasons. I do not think that politics should be a consideration in naming a building when you consider the source of the funding and the recognition of the same. If the money came from the Gianforte Family then put that name on the building.

Sincerely yours

Pete Melniker
President
Double Diamond Halter Co., Inc.

PO Box 126
Gallatin Gateway, MT

Subject: Public Comment for Gianforte Hall

Date: Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 7:25:02 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Wilkison (US), Marc

To: MSU News

Hi,

It is great news the Gianforte Family Foundation donated such a generous gift to MSU. I support the proposed name of Gianforte Hall in recognition of such a profound gift to the school.

Best Regards,
Marc

MSU Class of 2012

Subject: naming Gianforte building

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 5:35:50 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Gene Handl

To: MSU News

I am thoroughly disgusted to see that some of the MSU staff is so opposed to naming the new school of computing building after Mr Gianforte. That building should be named after him. Greg Gianforte has done so many great things for MSU, Gallatin County and the whole State - with more to come! The man started his business right here in the Gallatin Valley, created many jobs and many off-shoot businesses for this community. He was really successful, got very rich and now is sharing that wealth with the entire State. How short-sighted can some of these professors be? Mr Parker is a far left Liberal Socialist and should be fired from MSU. In addition he is indoctrinating his students to nut-case thoughts. Of course he is entitled to his opinion which is fine - but in this case he is dead wrong, just like most of his political analysis.

I would hope that enough of the good folks of the Gallatin County and the Bozeman area and MSU step forward and put a stop to his nonsense. At one time I thought that college students were taught to think for themselves but it doesn't look like that is the case today in our nutty world.

I hope that the Board of Regents can see through Mr Parker's nonsense and go ahead with naming the building after Mr Gianforte. After all, with MSU always begging for more money one would think that getting \$50 million would be a blessing and worth some reward as were the other two buildings recently constructed.

Sincerely,

Eugene J. Handl
363 Coulee Drive,
Bozeman, MT 59718
406-587-5642

Subject: Gianforte Building

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 5:02:35 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Scott Harris

To: MSU News

You're going to name the building after the guy that physically attacked a journalist and bragged about it? Gross.

Just say no to this money. It's bait, don't take it.

Subject: Naming of building

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 12:04:50 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Lynn Altizer

To: MSU News

I could send a page long list of objections to naming a building Gainforte Hall. But it boils down to this: you are renegeing on your policy of not naming property after currently employed and/or elected Montana officials. By excusing it as a "Family" donation means when wealthy people give money they don't have to follow the rules. If the "Family" was truly interested in the betterment of MSU, they would have stepped forward by now and requested another name. I think they like the idea of seeing the "Family" name on a big building and getting pats on the back.

Subject: Hall named after Gianforte

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 10:35:40 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Charlotte Heldstab

To: MSU News

I do not believe that the university should name a hall after Greg Gianforte. He illegally shot a collared research wolf outside of Yellowstone and it has been reported that the wolf was trapped for several days before Gianforte had time to come shoot the wolf.

He also shot a research mountain lion. It takes a lot of effort to collar a mountain lion for research purposes and all that effort went to waste when Gianforte shot it. It has also been reported that Gianforte's friend treed the cat and hours later, Gianforte flew his plane to Livingston to then kill the mountain lion.

Are either of these good examples of how to treat our treasured wildlife here in Montana ? If you choose to name a hall on the campus after him, you're putting money over morals.

Charlotte Heldstab
Whitefish, MT

Subject: Montana State University Board of Regents

Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 at 8:24:50 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: John Tubbesing

To: MSU News

To: The Board of Regents of Montana State University

I understand the naming of Gianforte Hall is coming under some scrutiny because of peoples political positions. I would like to share my thoughts on the matter.

All,

I believe politics, and / or, religion shouldn't even be a consideration in this conversation. Candidly, it's what is polarizing this country now a days. As human beings we ALL have our issues...both good and bad. Our ability to listen, respect, come together and compromise for the greater good is what has made this country great since the beginning. It seems today we just focus on what we don't like about the person or party which only drives us apart.

The goal here is to strive for common ground, and that common ground is MSU, and its never ending drive to create an incredible learning environment that attracts amazing people from all walks of life, who will grow and excel, and go on to make a difference in this world...and hopefully give back to the community that helped them. That's how the cycle is supposed work.

The Gianforte family has consistently supported MSU for years, and for all the right reasons...and politics wasn't one of them. This donation, for this area of study, couldn't come at a better time. The need for computer scientists will only continue to grow...and so aligns with MSU's long term strategy.

History tells us that many of the names of buildings across this campus, and across this nation are from successful people who accomplished some great things for the common good....but don't forget, they were human, and with that comes some subjects that folks probably don't agree with. Think Ford, Rockefeller, Carnegie, Gates, etc. The point is...progress and growth is painful. But the need to improve the greater good, and find those areas of common ground and compromise is what keeps moving the needle forward. It doesn't mean we ignore the differences, it just means we need to work together a little harder to RESOLVE said differences...not use them as weapons to alienate or drive a wedge between us. Working together is hard...but it's still the right thing to do.

I don't need to agree with or even know, a person's political affiliation if they are willing to consistently invest in a public institution as fine an example as MSU. It always needs to be about the students and the university that helps shape them.

For me...I have no issues with naming it Gianforte Hall...and to be candid, it would disrespectful not to...both to the family, and to MSU.

Sincerely,

John Tubbesing
MSU Engineering Graduate 1987
MSU NACOE Advisory Board Member
Retired Boeing Engineering Executive

--

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 5:53:47 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Michael Jarnevic

To: MSU News

I am absolutely aghast that this convicted criminal; this carpetbagger; this walking atrocity, would have the gall to even suggest that the hall be named for him and his misdeeds. I don't care how much money he's donating for this building--he can afford it and thus, it's nothing for a multi-millionaire. DENY, DENY, DENY!

Here's the FB site for a sizeable number of people following this:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/125947806038121/permalink/420501833249382>

SGM Michael Jarnevic (Ret)

GUERRILLA ALLITERATION



Michael Jarnevic

POB 277, Milltown, MT 59851

4065448671

grossbison@gmail.com

de

"Actively dispelling myths, rumors, innuendo, and perverse logic since 1955"

Subject: Naming of Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 4:25:50 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: McCalla, Stephanie

To: MSU News

Hello,

I wanted to respond to the plan to name the new building Gianforte Hall, and I was unable to attend the event designated for this purpose. Please let me know if there is anything else I need to do for this to be considered among other faculty/staff responses in the May Board of Regents meeting.

I oppose the naming of the new building Gianforte Hall. While we acknowledge and are grateful for the substantial gift from the Gianforte Family Foundation, it is not appropriate to name a building after a current governor who will likely be seeking reelection. The Gianforte family also have a poor record for inclusion; Gianforte supports anti-trans bills at the state level and they oppose local anti-discrimination ordinances at the county level. If the building is named for Gianforte, students and staff in the LGBTQ community would have a reminder of how little regard the MUS system has for them every time they see the building. If the Gianforte Family Foundation truly supports education, they will not need their name on the building as motivation to make a donation.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best,
Stephanie

Dr. Stephanie McCalla
she/her/hers
Associate Professor
Montana State University
Chemical & Biological Engineering
PO Box 173920
Bozeman, MT 59717-3920
Phone: (406)-994-2286
Office: 255 Chemistry and Biochemistry Building

Subject: Fwd: Naming

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 1:45:40 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: dstuver@midrivers.com

To: MSU News, dstuver@midrivers.com

To name a new building at MSU Gianforte Hall would be a major insult to graduates, especially to those with a Bachelor of Science degree. Despite the donors right to express religious beliefs without criticism, I believe strongly in the comments of my deceased wife that the very worst form of child abuse is the denial of knowledge

MSU is preeminent in sciences, attracting approximately two thirds of Montana valedictorians and salutatorians plus many more of the brightest students who were less mature or less grade oriented in high school. My wife and I received "B. S." degrees from MSU and our three adult children graduated from MSU in engineering, architecture, and micro-biology. While personal religion is private and normally beyond comment or question, that right must not infringe on the freedom of others. The Gianforte "museum" in

Eastern MT is dedicated to the belief that the earth is no more than 5,000 years old. Efforts to deny most science and certainly all of our natural sciences and to affect school sciences or promote private schools intended to shield children is clearly an effort to deny knowledge. Despite a huge donation, principles are a clear issue.

My contents are in no way political. Despite some concerns I voted for Gianforte in the hope that a successful businessman might promote good government business principles above politics.

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 12:41:36 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: reeott.3@gmail.com

To: MSU News

I want to say my part on the Gianforte Foundation donation. I strongly support the naming of the facility "Gianforte Hall". As the opponents have stated, Greg does work for the state. And I will add that he has done tremendous things for the state. But.....the Gianforte Foundation does not work for the state nor does it answer to the state, nor does the state answer to the foundation. This foundation is doing a tremendous service for MSU and I would be proud to see the Gianforte name on something that is going to be so valuable to MSU and everyone who lives in Montana. The opponents to this naming are once again trying to twist and mis-represent the constitution and the laws of the state and should be completely ashamed of what is coming out of their mouths. As it appears---all in the name of politics. Please name this facility "Gianforte Hall" as planned to express our sincere appreciation of the support this foundation is providing MSU and the entire state. Thank You

Marie Ott
3130 Canyon Dr.
Billings MT 59102

Subject: Proposed Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 11:57:17 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Marilyn Lockhart

To: MSU News

This email is a comment about the proposed Gianforte Hall at MSU. I share all of Dave Parker's comments made at the open meeting and quoted in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle. Gianforte does not share the MSU values of diversity and inclusion. By naming a building after him is a strong message that MSU accepts his values and that money is more important than what MSU believes in. Or perhaps MSU does not have these values that President Crusado has said MSU has. Naming a building after a standing state employee who does not have these important values sends a strong negative message to the student body at MSU. Currently across the nation, many higher education institutions such as Stanford, Emory, University of Virginia, and University of Richmond are renaming their buildings because they were named after people who were slave owners and/or supporters of eugenics. They are renaming buildings to more neutral names such as Fountain Hall. I believe that in years to come, MSU would find themselves in a situation of renaming a Gianforte Hall as diversity and inclusion become more engrained in our society. Future students and employees will object to a Gianforte Hall – they are objecting now! Honor their opinions. I wish that Gianforte would take a stand himself and ask that the building not be named after him – but that does not seem to be the kind of person he is-- he wants the recognition. Some of the suggestions from the students for a name such as Meadow Lark are much more appropriate. Why represent ourselves as an institution that panders to money and does not respect and honor all individuals? A standing governor is not an appropriate person to name a building after. Please do not do this!

Dr. Marilyn Lockhart

Professor Emeritus

Department of Education

Subject: Gianforte foundation donation and naming of the hall

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 11:41:20 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Gary Ott

To: MSU News

I want to say my part on the Gianforte Foundation donation. I strongly support the naming of the facility "Gianforte Hall". As the opponents have stated, Greg does work for the state. And I will add that he has done tremendous things for the state. But.....the Gianforte Foundation does not work for the state nor does it answer to the state, not does the state answer to the foundation. This foundation is doing a tremendous service for MSU and I would be proud to see the Gianforte name on something that is going to be so valuable to MSU and everyone who lives in Montana. The opponents to this naming are once again trying to twist and mis-represent the constitution and the laws of the state and should be completely ashamed of what is coming out of their mouths. As it appears---all in the name of politics. Please name this facility "Gianforte Hall" as planned to express our sincere appreciation of the support this foundation is providing MSU and the entire state. Thank You

Gary Ott
3130 Canyon Drive
Billings, MT. 59102

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 9:30:39 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Roy Eldhardt

To: MSU News

Montana has been blessed throughout the decades. What I have come to realize from my experience with donors, is that beyond merely 'giving back', it is important to realize that many individuals give back as a means of leaving a lasting legacy.

It is through our doors these contributions are carefully planned and implemented. Hundreds and hundreds of millions have come through our doors in the form of donations for specific causes as well as campaigns, which include our recent What It Takes campaign, where we raise nearly \$500 million.

There's a lot in a name... This is a very slippery slope, and I ask that the Board of Regents be mindful in their decision behind the re-naming of this building.

I can ensure that any other naming convention of this building from its original plan will deter many current and future donations to our university system across the state of Montana. The demographics and socioeconomics which surround some of the greatest contributions to our university come chiefly from conservative families.(This can also be said for our last four Major donations).

This is not to say that we will not continue to receive bountiful gifts from our future students who may not be conservative... but I ask that we tread lightly, as this decision will set the tone and precedent for future donations across the state. Donations with caveats do not often bode well for the recipient...

Best wishes, and good luck with your decision,
R.T.E.

*This message will be sent in physical form to the Board of Regents to ensure the safety of its delivery.

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 8:48:02 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Deborah Clark

To: MSU News

To Whom It May Concern,

With regards to Gianforte's large donation to MSU and naming a building after him, we have to weigh the fact this gentleman has provided numerous opportunities to the students, staff, and community of MSU and the city of Bozeman. His donation is much appreciated and should not be overlooked. If 'Gianforte Hall' is opposed, the question is why? Are the reasons of opposition valid fact or personal in nature? Is the opposition politically motivated? Historically, Montana State University's building names have been so assigned for numerous reasons including sizable donations: <https://www.montana.edu/pdc/docs/buildingname.html>. Is Greg Gianforte being singled out of an opportunity to have a building named after him? Will MSU benefit substantially from his large donation? If Gianforte retracted his donation would MSU staff and students be able to move forward technologically in the school of computing? Perhaps Mr. Gianforte could/should donate to a more appreciative area of education.

Sincerely,
Deborah Clark

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Your daily briefing
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 8:42:44 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Microsoft Viva
To: MSU News
Attachments: pyd_header_tuesday.png, viva_delete_2x.png, outlook_brand_colored_32px_2x.png, ProfileImage_128_57DDEDCEFF10B4D2B2FE02FA08E9453CB.png, new_window_2x.png, green_filled_checkmark_circle_2x.png, red_filled_dismiss_circle_2x.png, theme_agnostic_calendar_todo_2x.png, theme_agnostic_arrow_circle_2x.png, theme_agnostic_calendar_date_2x.png, viva_connections_icon_32px_2x.png, viva_insights_icon_32px_2x.png, viva_learning_icon_32px_2x.png, viva_topics_icon_32px_2x.png, thumbs_up_like_2x.png, thumbs_down_dislike_2x.png, Microsoft-logo_rgb_c-gray@2x.png, small_green_checkmark_in_circle_2x.png, BookFocusTime40pxIcon2x.png, transparent_square.png

Hi MSU News,
Make today count!



Commitments and follow-ups

From your messages



Sue Beland

[New Computing Building](#)



4 days ago they asked, "PLEASE choose a name that does not include the donors name."

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1950 Meadowvale Blvd.
Mississauga, ON L5N 8L9 Canada

Subject: MSU School of Computing -- Naming Comments

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 8:31:08 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Jeremy Sauskojus

To: MSU News

CC: Regent Loren Bough, Regent Todd Buchanan, Regent Joyce Dombrowski, Regent Casey Lozar, Regent Brianne Rogers, Regent Amy Sexton, Regent Jeff Southworth, Christian, Clayton, OPISupt@mt.gov, President Cruzado

Dear President Cruzado & Montana Board of Regents,
Good morning.

Both of us were born in the great state of Montana and have spent our entire lives here.

When we attended MSU, we spent time in Howard Hall, Wilson Hall, and Reid Hall, among many others. It never occurred to us to think negatively about the people who had donated money to make those buildings a reality. We never considered what perspectives or political positions those people held. Instead, we appreciated the fact that people gave money to an institution so we could attend classes in various buildings. Regardless of what we would do after attending MSU, those people had chosen to invest in us as students who would become contributing members of society in the United States.

Since it seems this is normal protocol for how MSU names buildings (for example:

<https://www.montana.edu/news/12467/msu-alumnus-norm-asbjornson-pledges-50-million-to-msu-for-its-college-of-engineering>

<https://www.montana.edu/news/15951/bozeman-s-tim-and-mary-barnard-pledge-6-million-to-msu>), we recommend you allow the building hosting the MSU School of Computing to be named Gianforte Hall.

If MSU is unwilling to name the building after the benefactor, it seems reasonable to kindly and respectfully refuse the donation and pass the building cost along to the students. That would allow the donor to pursue another institution that follows normal naming procedures for significantly large gifts.

Honestly, we do not care about a name connected to a building. However, it seems bad form to receive a significant amount of money and not offer to name the building as a "thank you" to the donor.

A simple online search shows that MSU has been the recipient of additional large financial gifts from the Gianforte Family Foundation. If you choose to NOT follow normal naming procedures, you are encouraging foundations to look elsewhere when they want to give large amounts of money to educational institutions.

Most respectfully,

Lori & Jeremy Sauskojus (MSU classes of 1994 and 1995, respectively)

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 7:32:18 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Laura Stone Larsson

To: MSU News

Good Morning,

I am sorry that I missed the listening sessions held last night to discuss having a donor's name associated with their gift. I am the Kathleen Chafey Endowed Nursing Professor in the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing, but I am writing to express my individual opinion and not that of my colleagues or college. I have clearly been a witness to named, generous and philanthropic giving at Montana State University!

I am writing in support of named gifts. I think it is important to facilitate and encourage philanthropic giving. Giving is a way to share wealth and improve equity outside of federal and state taxation. Giving in this manner achieves things that are not possible using public funds. It is reasonable for a donor to honor their family and establish their legacy by memorializing their family names. Further, we should encourage the celebration of diversity of thought that takes place when we honor community members despite any disagreements with their religion, creed or political views. This is the real work of honoring diversity and I am all for it. I hope the Board of Regents will allow the Gianforte named gift.

Please feel free to contact me at 406-599-2416. Sincerely,

Laura S. Larsson, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN

Subject: Gianforte Hall Donation Comment

Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 12:21:00 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Aarron L

To: MSU News

If this university accepts the donation of this man, they are obligated to put his name on the hall that is being built. Some might be concerned about this individual's current state government position, but that should not matter. Regardless of political leaning or position, hall naming has been done to recognize those who made it possible for the hall to be built and to respect those who have done something for the university. Just look at the rest of the halls on campus for examples. If this university declines to put Gianforte's name on this hall and Gianforte is not given the respect of having the hall -which he is paying for- to be named after him, this university should not look to receive many donations in the future. This decision has the possibility to start a reputation of disrespect to those who would give to the school. People who would have given to this school could be turned away by this decision and give instead to other competing institutions.

Just a humble student's thoughts.

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, May 2, 2022 at 3:27:45 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: eking4319

To: MSU News

To whom it may concern,

Must we even bandy about the idea of naming another building after a rich white man? Specifically, one who does not support gay marriage? (1) Someone who is convicted of assault? (2) When I look around the MSU campus I see nothing but buildings named after dead white men. There is no sight more endearing for a politician to look out over "their" domain and see their name emblazoned on buildings and plaques. Let us spare them the flattery. Let us not tax ourselves too heavily with the question of naming. Name it after the plants, the mountains, or someone who is native to this land. Let's foster inclusivity and choose a name which bolsters our values.

Eric Allen

Sources:

- 1) <https://web.archive.org/web/20170411135132/http://www.ktvq.com/story/33501881/mt-govs-race-features-big-difference-on-social-issues-but-gianforte-says-not-that-relevant>
- 2) http://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/politics/judge-releases-congressman-gianforte-s-mugshot/article_af6ccc66-e32d-5b76-9c46-fec7f41e9069.html

Subject: Naming of MSU Building after Gianforte

Date: Monday, May 2, 2022 at 9:54:45 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Ann Kieffaber

To: MSU News

CC: Ann Kieffaber

Computer "Science" should be a discipline that in fact supports the scientific method. In my opinion, this should be the basis for all intellectual pursuits at the college level. Hypotheses supported by facts lead to valid conclusions. To name a building on campus after someone that does not support science would be a serious disservice to our University and science based institutions. It would send the wrong message to students of science. I support my conclusions by the following facts:

1. Gianforte is one of the largest contributors (\$290k) to a museum in Glendive that argues Earth is only 6,000 years old. Most scientific sources cite the earth to be 4.5 billion years old.
2. Gianforte has been quoted several times in response to whether he believes in evolution: "I believe God created the Earth".
3. After having received several questions about climate change, Gianforte has refused to acknowledge that climate has been affected by human activity on earth.
4. Montana Public Radio asked Gianforte 3 times during his 2017 run for public office whether he believed that species have evolved over time through natural selection and he refused to answer the question.

The fact that his foundation has made a significant contribution is laudable, but putting his name on a building that has a scientific purpose is a big mistake.

Ann Kieffaber

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Name of New Computer Building

Date: Monday, May 2, 2022 at 6:54:11 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Tim Miller

To: MSU News

Having sent our daughter to MSU for a degree in health sciences, who now practices medicine in Missoula, we could not be more proud of her excellent education at MSU. We were beyond disappointed to learn that the institution is considering naming a building after an individual, who in our opinion, is the most controversial governor in our state's history - a person with extreme religious beliefs, disregard for hunting ethics, violence toward a journalist, and supporter of legislation that attacks the independence of our judiciary. It seems like MSU would be setting itself up for a black eye by naming a building after such a divisive person.

Sincerely,

Tim and Suzy Miller
1555 S 6th St W
Missoula, MT 59801

Subject: Objection to naming of Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 8:34:34 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Page Huyette | MT Broker

To: MSU News

To Whom it May Concern,

As a former Adjunct Professor at MSU, I strongly object to the new building at the university being named after Greg Gianforte.

Page Huyette

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Page Huyette

Subject: Gianforte/Naming Comment

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 3:39:54 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Michael Miles

To: MSU News

TO: University Communications

RE: Gianforte Foundation Gift & Naming of MSU Building After Sitting Governor

DATE: MAY 1, 2022

Governor Greg Gianforte should not have put MSU or the Board of Regents in this position.

A \$50 million gift, but with an unacceptable string attached I am writing in opposition to acceptance of that offer under the current stipulations. Naming the proposed Gianforte School of Computing after a current sitting governor is completely inappropriate, and flies in the face of the BOR's long standing policy. However there are additional compelling reasons for opposition as well.

No one should hide behind the position that the gift is coming from the Gianforte Family Foundation. It is undeniably linked to Greg Gianforte. That said, the Gianforte Foundation has a history of supporting groups and issues that advocate a social agenda in opposition to the very principles of inclusion and human dignity that Montana State University espouses. The Gianforte Foundation has also aligned itself with an anti-science agenda that is antithetical to the mission and scope of Montana State University. In fairness, the Foundation also has demonstrated support for computer science and higher education in general.

Given the current controversy, one would hope that the Foundation would withdraw the request to attach the name Gianforte to the proposed building. If, as one must assume, the Foundation's priorities lie with enhancing the educational opportunities of current and future students, then severing the attached string to their gift should be an easy decision. After all, the name Gianforte is already attached to an auditorium in Absjornson Hall and to another facility in Barnard Hall. This, combined with the much deserved praise that will follow from this now proposed gift should provide ample recognition. If however, the Gianforte Foundation declines to do so, the BOR must act responsibly. First by insisting that regents appointed by the governor recuse themselves before voting. Second, by then declining the offer as it now stands. If the BOR chooses not to do so, they will surely forfeit the hard earned respect they have established over the decades.

Sincerely,

Michael Miles
Professor & Director Emeritus
Honors College
MSU

Subject: Gianforte - naming of hall at MSU

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 2:34:09 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kathleen Engstrom

To: MSU News

Hello

Here is my input regarding the naming of a hall for the governor because his foundation donated money.

Absolutely not. Places should be named after role models, not after a person simply because they are wealthy and can “buy” fame for themselves.

Our Governor hit a reporter during his campaign because the reporter asked a question which irritated him. He killed a wolf caught in a trap (how heroic) and didn't have a license to kill wolves. This is a man who thinks he can do whatever he wants because he has money.

Name the new hall after a person in our State who embodies the values we wish to see in our young students (honesty, courage, humility, kindness, etc). Maybe after a Native American woman?

I suggest you name the Bozeman landfill after Gianforte; that would be more appropriate.

Sincerely

Kathleen Engstrom

Stevensville, MT

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.

Albert Einstein

Subject: Comment re proposed Gianforte building

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 1:51:32 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Marny Barovich

To: MSU News

Mr. Gianforte already established a school of computing. And now he wants to pay to get his name on a building — or should I say get one built and then put his name on it.

Maybe next he'll want to have a College at MSU named for him. Perhaps the College of Business?

Gianforte is a first time governor of Montana. Who knows what his legacy will be. Consider the Sackler family & their role in the opioid epidemic and the numerous buildings, schools, art museums , etc., named after them, names which are slowly being removed.

Many universities have or are considering renaming buildings due to reconsideration of the reputations of their buildings' namesakes. For example, the University of Southern California recently removed the name of a building honoring a former president and eugenics supporter and, fortunately, recently renamed it after Dr. Joe Medicine Crow of Montana who was a tribal war chief, Crow historian and alumnus of USC. Many universities also have or are considering renaming buildings that honored Confederates and slaveholders. It's a long list.

Gianforte's controversial views on evolution, climate change and the environment, individual rights, his far right stance, and least of all his assault against a reporter, should certainly call into question his meriting a building named in his honor, even if he pays for it.

Does Gianforte have a moral and ethical compass that includes the stated values of MSU, in particular the values of integrity, inclusion, collaboration? Someone who couldn't control himself and assaulted a reporter when he didn't like questions asked of him? I believe the answer is no.

Money paid for his governorship. Isn't that enough? MSU should save itself from any future renaming of a building called Gianforte Hall (maybe even renaming a school of computing). A plaque acknowledging a donation should suffice, although Gianforte's ego probably couldn't handle that.

Marny Barovich

Montana native and part-time resident

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 11:12:38 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: FREY JAMES C OR JUDITH A

To: MSU News

Please consider this plea from parents of a current MSU student. Mr. Gianforte is NOT a suitable individual to have his name attached to a building on the campus. He has repeatedly shown his disregard for public education, the rule of law, and the plight of ordinary citizens of Montana. He has chosen to make voting more difficult for many. How many thousands of dollars has his administration spent on television ads to say register to vote? This was NEVER necessary before his rule changes. It is a sham attempt to say this administration cares. It does not.

Subject: Bldg name

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 9:40:39 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: David Herries

To: MSU News

I want to register my complaint,as I a three time graduate of,MSU,a montana native,a science person who taught 50 years. It bothers me a bunch that a prestigious university of science like ours would even consider naming anything with the name of a creationist,non science believer who has a museum that has nothing in it that portrays reality..... natives riding a dinosaur.....earth 5000 yrs old. It would be a travesty to even consider his money for nonscience activities. It would belittle my degrees to come from a University that believes its roots are not only non scientific but absolutely false.Please consider what money can buy,lies and falsehoods. David Herries Bobcat forever.
Sent from my iPad

Subject: YES to Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 8:30:46 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Connie Chausse

To: MSU News

The Gianforte Family should be honored for their generosity and commitment to higher education. End of discussion.

Subject: No more temples to the ultra Rich

Date: Sunday, May 1, 2022 at 6:52:11 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: tom wilde

To: MSU News

In the old days a name on a plaque was enough; We need to quit naming buildings after donors their egos are out of control. No more temples please ! the taxpayers own our institutions

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: Gianforte Hall?

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 11:55:18 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Teri Wing

To: MSU News

Greg assaulted a reporter, bought the governorship, sued people trying to access a river, killed animals that were part of a research project and signed several bills that are potentially illegal. He is not the best representation of Montana. Please don't also let him buy the name of a building on MSU campus!

Dr. Teri Wing

710 River Place

Missoula, MT 59801

Subject: c/o Naming Comments

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 9:24:46 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Lonny Larson

To: MSU News

In regards to the building to house the MSU Gianforte School of Computing, it should absolutely be called Gianforte Hall. After a tremendously generous and gracious gift of 50 million dollars for the structure from the Gianforte Foundation it should carry that name. The state of Montana and its taxpayers would struggle to ever cover the cost for such a structure. They have shown generosity to the state like few others.

You can rest assured that if the donor were a liberal that there would be no opposition to the name. You can bet none of these people have one problem with naming of federal structures after politicians that have done nothing more than used money from taxpayers to buy power and favors for themselves such as the Max Baucus federal building in Helena.

Sincerely
Lonny Larson
Helena, Mt.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: Naming of building for Gianforte family

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 6:44:11 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Sue Evans

To: MSU News

There is nothing wrong with honoring whoever is giving 50 million dollars toward building a computer lab or whatever. However, not letting the Gianforte name be on a building is a way of showing disrespect to the Governor and I am sure that is exactly what they wish to do. I do believe these same people did this before when another family wished to give money toward a building. The building is for the education of our students. My family graduated from MSC and my children and their children are graduating from MSU. We support our college system. Do not let a small minded bunch tell the University system how to name it's buildings. Susan Evans jevans@3rivers.net.
Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: Gianforte

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 2:31:32 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Norma Duffy

To: MSU News

Don't take this hater's Money, to build anything in Montana.Period!!!!

NORMA DUFFY

1029 Placer St

Butte, Mt 59701

PH. 406-925-0246

Have a Great Day!!!

Subject: Naming a hall for Greg Gionforte

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 1:50:05 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Sharol Hall

To: MSU News

To Whom It May Concern:

University Communications, c/o

Naming Comments

P.O. Box 172220

Bozeman, MT 59717

I am 81 years old and a Montana native living in Bozeman. I lived out of state for 26 years so came back with a different prospective on many things.

It just came to my attention that there is consideration of naming a hall after Governor Greg Gianforte by The Board of Regents. This is extremely concerning to me, students, professors and many more.

It is quite obvious this is about how much money he has donated to the University over the years and has nothing to do about what he has done for the people of Montana. It's all about power and his personal agenda which is obvious based on what he has done being Governor. Based on what he has done he violates Montana law because he thinks he can. He is not a native of Montana and is a billionaire based on the sale of his company. He has wanted to mess with our public lands to give private access to his millionaire and political friends. Another example of not caring for the average Montana resident. What is sad many rural people have no idea what he is up to.

I know you know what I'm about to go over:

1. In 2017 on the eve of special election Gianforte assaulted a reporter because he did didn't like the question he asked regarding health care legislation. He was charged with misdemeanor assault and got a slap on the wrists.
2. March 1, 2022 Gianforte shot and killed a mountain lion that was being tracked by National Parks. Hound dogs caused the mountain lion up a tree and it was shot. Now this is what I call hunting and must be for a trophy.
3. In 2021 Gianforte shot and killed a black wolf in violation of Montana regulations on property owned by Robert Smith and director of Sinclair Broadcasting. Another billionaire.

This is what we publicly know about this man since he got into politics 5 years ago. Were there others before that we don't know about? These 3 items are enough to disqualify him with a name on a University hall. Laws are to be abided by all citizens including the wealthy and politicians.

I'm going to list what he has signed in 2021 State Legislature which does not benefit the average Montana resident and is based on a political agenda.

1. Restricted voting access by ending same day voter registration and requiring new voter ID requirements. These unfairly affect students and indigenous peoples the most. (HB176, SB169.

2. Repealed or altered laws previously approved by voters, made it harder for Montanans to write law through citizen initiatives. HB176, HB273, HB701, HB651.
3. Undercut local control. County health officials now have less authority to protect your neighbors during the ongoing COVID pandemic. HB121, HB257, HB702. City governments no longer can establish inclusionary zoning...A way to assure affordable housing which we desperately need. HB259
4. Cut taxes for the rich, cost in the state coffers \$50 million per year, leaving tax burdens to fall on the working class. I guess he got his taxes cut. SB159, SB399.
5. Limited women's right-to-privacy and reproductive rights. HB136, HB140, HB167, HB171
6. Harmed LGBTQ youth. HB112, SB280
7. Added cumbersome bureaucracy to Medicaid, which results in thousands of Montanans being kicked off with no savings to the state SB101
8. Lowered water-quality standards. HB358
9. Removed protections for wolves and other wildlife. HB224. I'm not sure what he has against our beautiful Montana but makes me so sad and all done so he can go out and kill more.

He also passed a gun law where University students could pack guns. Why, Why, Why. I'm not sure where this law is as it went to the Montana Supreme Court. The gun situation is truly devastating for not only Montana residents but throughout our country.

Back a few years he received an honorary alumni degree and the technology building was named after him. Enough! It's great when you receive millions of dollars for your school but does not mean a person undeserving should get recognition.

What happened to honoring Montana people for having a high degree of INTEGRITY and CHARACTER and do good for their fellow man. This cannot be about giving Gianforte a hall named after him for giving your school money. My personal opinion is he has none of the above attributes and absolutely has no class.

Sincerely,
Sharol Hall

Subject: Gianforte building

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 1:43:47 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Michael Ober

To: MSU News

Kindly accept my public response to the news of *Greg Gianforte's* donation of millions to name a new building after himself on our MSU campus. What a sham!

Under no circumstances should a public official like him seek to name public buildings after himself in a shameful attempt to garner votes for his re-election. If he wants to donate money, that's fine. But no building on our MSU campus should ever bear his name. Period.

Michael J. Ober

Professor Emeritus, Flathead Valley Community College

michaelober209@gmail.com

54 Buffalo Hill Drive

Kalispell, MT 59901

406-257-2040 home

406-890-9472 cell

Subject: Don't name a hall after Gianforte

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 11:45:06 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: danielleegnew@yahoo.com

To: MSU News

Dear MSU,

I understand the universities are stretched for money at this time. I especially understand that Montana State University has a history of perhaps taking money from sketchy partners, in order to get buildings created; the politics of higher education. This is no secret to those of us that are Montanans.

However, naming a tech hall, in Montana's "tech/science university", after a governor that has made national news for some of the most embarrassing behavior possible, must be deemed out of the question.

This is not a partisan issue. This is a human issue.

Human beings that bodyslam reporters, shouldn't be able to buy their name on a building in a university.

Human beings that make national news coming out against the LGBT community in such a strong and public way, shouldn't be able to buy their name on a building in a university.

Human beings that make national news supporting and funding a creationist museum in Glendive that thwarts decades of scientific achievement, displaying dioramas of humans riding dinosaurs, should not be able to buy their name on a building. (That alone should rule him out of having his name placed on any building in any educational institution, altogether.)

Human beings that have placed a bounty on wolves, in order to attract high dollar hunting partners to the state of Montana, even to the horror of the most Republican, most conservative Montana conservationists, and ranchers, and landowners, should not be granted a name on a building in a university.

I have no idea what Greg Gianforte is like, as a person. As a Montanan, I am only subject to evaluating his persona through regularly shocking headlines, generated by our own in-state periodicals. Which then are carried to the world.

When marketing a university, image is everything. And during this time, when brick and mortar universities are competing to recruit students against online universities at half the price, when brick and mortar universities are trying to keep their coffers full, this decision to put a Gianforte name on a major structure at MSU is a national public relations disaster, just ripe to happen.

Why do I say this? Because I work in media. And I'll tell you exactly what the media is going to do as soon as they catch wind of Gianforte's name going up on a major structure at a major Montana University:

The announcement by MSU will be picked up by the AP algorithm, which will cross check Gianforte's name with every horrendous and embarrassing thing he's ever said or done. The "Emperor's New Clothes" effect will be ripped away, and Gianforte will be seen in his not-so-clean tightie-whities. The "building naming" will become a second narrative to a nationally distributed story, as the first narrative will be that a major Montana University named a building after a body slammer and a wolf killer, an active anti-LGBT proponent, and a man that believes that human beings rode dinosaurs because he believes the earth was created on October 23rd, 4004 BC.

That will be the narrative that the entire country reads, about Montana State University, Bozeman.

The news cycle won't care about your financial struggles.

They will highlight the narrative that a major university (currently brought to the nation's attention in the news cycle since Troy Andersen's second round pick to the Atlanta Falcons) has placed the name of someone who appears to be, on his own merit and in his own words, science-ignorant—on a tech building, in Montana's science and tech university; the university that happens to be connected to the largest dinosaur museum in the region.

That dichotomy, that irony, that messed-up choice—is *exactly* how that story will be structured. And it will be picked up by every national periodical in the country, and beyond.

Because you just can't make this stuff up.

If you believe that's not to be true, or somehow, the naming of a major university structure after a man who has made such appalling national headlines time and time again will go completely unnoticed by anybody—I do applaud your naïveté in this very connected world.

My letter to you, MSU, has nothing to do with politics. It has nothing to do with how anyone votes. I am appealing to whatever is left of Montana State University's ethical core. Perhaps it's all gone. Perhaps the university system is now corporatized to the point of being nearly sociopathic in the way it reaches for cash and prints diplomas. Perhaps MSU no longer cares about how it's perceived, either in Montana, or elsewhere.

However, I am a former "baby Cat" (MSU-B), and I care. I have generations of Montana State University graduates in my family—some are Republicans and some are Democrats—and I guarantee you that they would care about their diplomas being soiled by an ethical decay of a university that once presented them.

So if you have a heart, hear what I'm saying: this is an incredibly bad idea, to name a building after a person who has done nothing but make terrible headlines for years and years. I don't care how much money they are offering you, to overlook the obvious. It's only \$50 million. Honestly, in this age of billionaires, you can throw a rock and hit anybody in Bozeman who will give you \$50 million dollars for a tech building with their name on it. And I'll bet most of them have never made awful national news, let alone global news, the way Gianforte has.

If you don't have a heart, and the university has been sucked into some sociopathic money-printing corporate operation, hear what I'm saying: do understand that naming a building after Gianforte will be the most dreadful and un-doable public relations nightmare that you could possibly create, that will deeply affect your pockets for years to come, and your future bottom line. This will shoot in the foot much out-of-state recruiting, as the national news cycle will gently insinuate that anyone who takes money from an anti-science, former tech person, for their science-heavy, paleontology-heavy university, is either demonstrating a deep desperation for donors, or sympathizes not-so-secretly with the fringe Christian extremism of that individual.

Either perception is bad for recruitment.

Maybe Greg's a great guy, at home. However, if Gianforte wished to leave a legacy that included his name on a building in an educational institution, he—quite literally—should have made far, far better public choices in his career, up to this point. And, unless MSU's NASA installment has come up with a way to bend space, and go backwards in time—the past cannot be changed.

Media remembers.

Basically MSU, you can't make a deal with the devil without everybody knowing, in the 21st-century. That's the bottom line. No matter how sparkly their \$50 million dollars appears.

Your move.

Sincerely, with a heart after Montana—GO CATS!!

Danielle Egnew

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: New computer science building

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 11:43:39 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Donna Whitman

To: MSU News

In regard to the naming of the new building, I would like to weigh in by asking you to not use gianforte hall. Aside from being a sitting public official and the emollument concept, we should do our best to apply ethical standards and not just dollar signs. Although historical perspective has allowed people and corporations to buy our attention, punching a journalist during his first campaign, not showing the moral restraint to not kill collared animals, selfish animal cruelty killing the large cat in particular - this is not a role model for our upcoming adults.

And is it not time to name a building after a worthy woman in the field? There shouldn't be strings attached to adore a donar by automatically naming a building after their money especially regardless of character.

Thank you for your attention and consideration,

Donna Whitman

Subject: Don't name a hall after Gianforte
Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 11:31:04 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: danielleegnew@yahoo.com
To: MSU News

Dear MSU,

I understand the universities are stretched for money at this time. I especially understand that Montana State University has a history of perhaps taking money from sketchy partners, in order to get buildings created; the politics of higher education. This is no secret to those of us that are Montanans.

However, naming a tech hall, in Montana's "tech/science university", after a governor that has made national news for some of the most embarrassing behavior possible, must be deemed out of the question.

This is not a partisan issue. This is a human issue.

Human beings that bodyslam reporters, shouldn't be able to buy their name on a building in a university.

Human beings that make national news coming out against the LGBT community in such a strong and public way, shouldn't be able to buy their name on a building in a university.

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ask.

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that believes that human beings rode dinosaurs because he believes the earth was created on October 23rd, 4004 BC.

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Sincerely, with a heart after Montana—GO CATS!!

Danielle Egnew

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Gianforte building name

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 11:10:52 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Bill H

To: MSU News

Greg Gianforte enables and endorses white supremacist in the republican party and has never denounced their evil RHETORIC comments including comments made by Mt congress rep Rosendale. The 1% WHITE PRIVILEGED SACKLER FAMILY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF THOUSANDS AND THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE, NOT ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS. THAT IS OUTRIGHT OUTRAGEOUS RACISM. What say you, Greg?

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Subject: Gianfranco Hall

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 10:04:04 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rod and Sue Schwasinger

To: MSU News

Since it is against the naming rules set by the Regents, the new building at MSU should not be named after the current governor. Take some time to request and thoughtfully consider other naming ideas. Thank you. Sue Schwasinger, Bozeman

Sent from my Galaxy

Subject: Don't name it GIANFORTE

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 9:50:34 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Karl Woodmansey

To: MSU News

President Cruzado:

As a third generation MSU alumnus and a life member of the alumni association, I am writing to express my displeasure with the recent acceptance of a "gift" by the Gianforte "family," and the plans to name a building after him/them. Because MSU took money that I feel is tainted by the politics of Greg Gianforte, I have decided that you no longer will need any endowments from me. I am disappointed with the greed, decisions and politics of MSU fundraising.

Respectfully,

Karl Woodmansey, D.D.S., M.A. (B.S. '86)
1215 Waterside Cir
Dallas, TX 75218
KFW@prodigy.net
cell: 469-271-9722

Subject: naming comments

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 9:37:41 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: dona w

To: MSU News

Dear MBR,

NOOOO to naming Gianforte Hall!!!! the new computer center.

Thank you for listening,

Dona Woods

Havre

"In God We Trust"

Dona

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 8:53:54 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: gobobcats@midrivers.com

To: MSU News

I am an alumni of MSU and I would like the new tech school building be named Gianforte Hall. So grateful for the donation.

Tia Miller 2004

Subject: naming

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 7:44:18 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kimball Leighton

To: MSU News

Do NOT name anything 'Gianforte' on the MSU campus. If you must take his \$50 mil, name it after one of his kids or, better yet, use his dog's name.

Sincerely,
Kimball Leighton
Livingston MT

--

The best water's still ahead.

Subject: naming of a building

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 7:30:19 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rich Noonan

To: MSU News

I sincerely hope that you do not choose to endorse Gianforte, by naming a building after him or his family, after his behavior with the reporter who was asking him questions during his political campaign (which he was arrested and found guilty of). This is unacceptable behavior akin to owning slaves and pillaging the oppressed. No amount of money should pay to clear, hide or misrepresent the reality of this man's real character.

You have the opportunity to make the right choice, and name the building after a woman who contributed to the evolution of the computing world.

chatatyalater

Thanks

Rich

Sent from la cajacita

Subject: Comment on plans to name Gianforte Hall

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 7:21:16 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Bruce Wiegand

To: MSU News

Being a Bozeman native and graduating from MSU in the 1970s, I must express my dismay at the prospect of naming a building after our current governor (yes, I know it is the Gianforte Family Foundation, however, he is the face of the foundation to the public). I appreciate David Parker's comments on MSU's values of integrity and inclusion that have been a cornerstone of the institution. I can't help but think of my father, who shared those values, as most Montanans do. He grew up in Cascade, MT, and struggled through the depression in the '30s to come to MSU (MSC at the time). He was the first of his family to go to college, before earning a Ph.D. from Penn State during the war and teaching physics at MSU for over 30 years. Despite his generation, I know that he would be distressed at the current proposal, which would honor someone for their wealth while ignoring their ideals that ostracize my father's gay grandson. His grandson just received his Ph.D. from MSU in microbiology, continuing the legacy of our family. This dissonance does not fit with what I know—and my father knew—Montana State University to be. Please reconsider this plan.

Thank You,
Bruce Wiegand
10 Gardner Park Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715

Subject: String support for renaming

Date: Saturday, April 30, 2022 at 7:06:02 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Greg & Renée Gilpin

To: MSU News

I am in strong support to rename to Gianforte Hall. This is a family contribution and doesn't say the Greg Gianforte. There are no valid reasons to say no, especially based on the nonsense David Parker is spouting. Again this has nothing to do with Greg, this is a family contribution and a family naming.

Greg Gilpin

Subject: Gianforte building name

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 9:56:49 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Donna Murphrey

To: MSU News

MSU should have no political ties no matter how much money is donated. Instead of using the Gianforte name, maybe you could let them select several names that are then voted on by the university.

[Sent from AT&T Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Subject: Objection to the Naming of an MSU building after Gianforte
Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 9:50:20 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Jeanne & Bob
To: MSU News

To whom it may concern,

We object to a building at MSU being named after Gianforte. We agree with the three student senators that "Gianforte does not fit within MSU values of "excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity and stewardship"". We have not forgotten the 2017 assault of a reporter as well as more recent divisive and insensitive comments. He also has a lack of regard for hunting ethics and the protection of Montana's natural resources. My husband has a Masters in Fish and Wildlife Management from MSU-Bozeman and our son currently goes there and is working on a Mechanical Engineering degree. Our son gave us a tour of the new Engineering Building and upon seeing the Gianforte Auditorium we wondered why that had been named after him. We would be very disappointed if MSU chose to name a building after someone with such questionable ethics.

Sincerely,

M. Jean Johnson
and
Robert T Fuhrmann

8 King Lane
Gardiner, MT

Subject: Naming of Building

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 8:48:40 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Susan Larson

To: MSU News

I do not feel naming the computer hall Gianforte is appropriate. An acknowledgement of the donation from the Gianforte Family Foundation is acceptable.

Sincerely

Susan Lehrman Larson

Alumna 1971

Subject: Naming of New Computing Building

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 7:45:52 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Mary Eckenrod

To: MSU News

I am a parent of an MSU Bachelors and masters graduate, and a resident of Bozeman. I am writing in opposition to the naming of the new computing building after Greg Gianforte. As a governor, he has not demonstrated the values many Montanans hold, including his violent public behavior, lack of support for our educators, non-existent support for our military and veterans, lack of action to protect our native environment and wildlife, and lack of inclusivity. Our own university policies state a public building should not be named for any politician (or his family foundation) as long as he holds any public office in this state. It is shocking that some of our regents would consider making an exception to the naming policy as long as the dollar amount is large enough. What a poor example of values for our students and the general public. I urge the Board of Regents to reject this naming action.

Mary Eckenrod
Bozeman, MT.
maryeckenrod@gmail.com

Subject: Gianforte

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 6:36:26 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: tale_lady

To: MSU News

I think instead of naming a building after our current governor, which i oppose, maybe MSU should start up a scholarship and name it the Gianforte Foundation Scholarship. We all know that students cannot afford student loans and that paying them back if they choose to get them will take all the years of their lives to do. I know I can't afford my \$800 a month payment on my student loans and that i will never pay it off in my life time. If i could go back in time and change my mind on how I payed for college I would and it won't be with student loans period.

Thanks,

Robin

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Subject: Gianforte is a disgrace

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 5:25:58 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Melanie Malson

To: MSU News

Please don't name anything after somebody just because they make a huge donation.

Let's name buildings to honor people of character and values.

Thank you.

Melanie Malson

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 5:23:37 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Van Leeuwen, Travis

To: MSU News

Hello,

I would like to add my name to the list of those opposing naming a new hall after a wealthy donor, especially Greg Gianforte. His list of accomplishments include threatening reporters, physically assaulting a reporter, poaching an elk, paying ranchers to trap wolves so that he may murder them for trophies, sponsoring a fossil fuel and creationist museum in Glendive MT, lobbying against LGBTQ+ rights, and the list goes on.

Greg Gianforte opposes rational thought, academic pursuits, and the truth. He does not deserve to have his name on a building at one of the best research universities in the country.

Sincerely,

Travis K. van Leeuwen

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Subject: Gianforte name on building

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 5:13:14 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Randy Armstrong

To: MSU News

Please do not put the Gianforte name on this building or anywhere on campus. The money was a gift and that's all! These politicians will try anything for recognition. He does anything to get his face on a camera. Besides punching out a journalist and illegal killing of a mountain lion he doesn't deserve to be governor. Hope he doesn't get re-elected and his name is forgotten! Thanks.

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Naming building at MSU

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 5:02:20 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kathleen Hunthausen

To: MSU News

CC: Kathleen Hunthausen

I strongly object to naming a building at MSU after Greg Gianforte. He is a sitting politician in our state and his status should NOT be influenced by money he has donated. It shows bias in favor of MSU over other excellent higher education schools in our great state. Please do not name a building after him, presently or in the future.

Thank you,
Kathleen Hunthausen
East Helena
A native Montanan

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: ASMSU Questions

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 4:43:57 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Hallie Rugheimer

To: MSU News

CC: Hallie Rugheimer

Hello ASMSU personnel,

I am just now reading that public comments are being aired on Thursday at the SUB 235. I was not able to timely write what I feel is important about one of the agenda items at the meeting on Thurs, April 28. Mainly the \$50 mil. donation by Gov. Gianforte toward an entirely new building on MSU's Campus to house Computer Studies and the controversy of the Board of Regent's current naming policy is of concern to me and to many of us who are long time supporters of Montana State University.

I read (msunews@montana.edu) that ASMSU is not in favor of naming the building Gianforte Hall, quoting a statement from student senators saying "Gianforte does not fit within MSU values of 'excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity and stewardship'. Also referencing comments Gianforte has made in the past including Gianforte's assault of the news reporter.

I want to let your organization know that I am in complete sympathy with and in support of the senators' statement. As a long time resident of Bozeman. I would personally offer my comment as a mother of two graduates who majored in Physics/Math and Mechanical Engineering at MSU. Our family also endowed funding through the MSU Foundation for awarding scholarships in science. Our University has a long history of being an outstanding land grant Institution. It should not be sullied by any anti-science aspect writ large on an edifice on Campus in the 21st century.

We all know Greg Gianforte has said, he believes in what he supports re: Creation Museum in Glendive, MT, which is anti-science at best. Quoting:

We believe that: -Each type of plant and animal was specifically created "after its kind" by God; none came from chance or natural processes, nor did any develop from some other plant or animal.

Thank you ASMSU and other agencies for keeping Montana State University proud of its foundational and on-going, well-recognized achievements.

Much appreciation, GO CATS!

Hallie Rugheimer

Post office: Wilsall, MT

Dated: April 29, 2022

Subject: (none)

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 3:53:21 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: dickrf44@gmail.com

To: MSU News

I am glad this is being defeated. We don't need his name on any building. If you do it for 1 individual then all the rest will follow. Dick Roma

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: No to Gianforte or any active politician

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 3:50:11 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rob Gregoire

To: MSU News

Hello,

I am opposed to naming a building after Governor Gianforte because he is an elected official currently in office. Quite honestly, MSU should consider a policy where buildings (or schools) aren't named in honor of living persons so this gray area doesn't have to be navigated again.

Thank you

Rob Gregoire

Bozeman, MT

MSU BSEE and MSEE, 1990 and 1992.

406-599-3009

Subject: Naming of computer science building

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 3:07:41 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: drm3591@blackfoot.net

To: MSU News

We would like to express our opposition to naming the new computer science building after Gov. Gianforte. He does not represent the value and ethics of a real Montanan. To name a few things, look at his history of bodily assault and hunting and trapping violations. A donor plaque expressing appreciation for the donation should please him, unless he cares more about himself and his millions than the students the facility will benefit. I bet many Montanans can think of a more appropriate name.

Pete and Karen DesRosier
Drummond, Montana

Subject: Naming of Building

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 2:55:50 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rachel Gappa

To: MSU News

As an alumni of MSU, I strongly believe that naming a building after a political figure currently serving the state of Montana is wrong. In addition, true charity does not require recognition.

Rachel Gappa '84

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: FW: Gianforte naming rights session transcript
Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 4:19:37 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: MSU News
To: Becker, Michael

From: daskinner@centurytel.net <daskinner@centurytel.net>
Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 2:32 PM
To: MSU News <msunews@montana.edu>
Subject: Gianforte naming rights session transcript

As an MSU gradjooit, 83 and 86 (I think), ordinarily I wouldn't have much to say about "naming rights" as that's kind of common, for example I guess the business school being named for Jake Jabs or something. But I think the flap over naming rights of the computing school warrants my informed input to the Regents, and part of that entails a request to you once the listening session has been transcribed, to be forwarded an electronic copy of those transcripts and other written input that will be presented to the Regents. I do not require all input but would appreciate that which has been presented by the time the transcripts are complete, and/or a link to whatever public Web page testimony is to be posted for public review.

Thank you,

Go Cats

Dave Skinner

Subject: Naming comments

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 12:52:08 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: bbuck3@icloud.com

To: MSU News

Board of Regents,

I would like to comment on the naming of a building after Greg Gianforte. I think it is very unwise, regardless of the size of the donation. Political whims change and humans are prone to disappoint, so in the best use of restraint, I would urge the Board to NOT name the structure after Greg Gianforte. Thank you for your sincere consideration of my comment.

Buck Buchanan

Box 467

Manhattan, MT 59741

Subject: This is a huge donation and it shows that the Gianfortes use their foundation for good and right causes. This building should be named in their honor.

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 12:40:31 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Larry Propp

To: MSU News

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Naming of Gianforte Hall

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 11:31:45 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: donald bitz

To: MSU News, Don Bitz

I am in support of naming the new construction of the computer building to Gianforte Hall. I am a Graduate of MSU in Business with an emphasis in Finance. I am proud to be a 1971 MSU graduate and a Bobcat supporter. I am concerned that Politics is taking precedence over education in the naming of this building project. It is apparent that the Liberal voice at MSU is planning to control the donations to this outstanding University. MSU has continued to grow in Many ways under the Leadership of an Outstanding President. Many significant donations have contributed to this growth in building projects and Scholarships. I believe the efforts to attract these donors is in jeopardy if a group of staff and students are allowed to dictate because of Political preference.

Several years ago our Family sold our fourth Generation Farm/Ranch in Northern Montana. We considered establishing an Endowment to MSU. If my Political views need to agree or be challenged by these individuals, or any other organization at MSU, I would not even have considered this option. If MSU allows this discriminatory action to control Donations, donors will quickly look elsewhere in my opinion. The Gianforte Foundation has contributed substantially to the State of Montana and MSU needs to honor this \$50 million donation. The Gianforte wealth was the result of business wisdom in technology and it is appropriate to name a Computer science building after this donor.

I spent many years traveling to Washington DC to advocate for rural issues such as Fiber to the Home, Tele Health Tele Medicine, Rural Economic Development and Tribal Issues. I was privileged to visit with Senator Baucus, Senator Burns, and Senator Tester as well as Congressmen Williams, Zinke, Rosendale, Reberg, and Gianforte. I have respect for all of these individuals and I did not let Party affiliation interrupt my purpose for meeting the goal at hand.

Difference in opinion was to be an respectful discussion and that was normally accomplished. It is disappointing that Party affiliation is a determining factor of the naming of this building by a very generous donor.

Governor Gianforte should be given the honor of name recognition to the Computer Science Building.

Thank You

Don Bitz.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPad](#)

Subject: New Computing Building

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 11:22:39 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Sue Beland

To: MSU News

Naming a building after a governor who donates a huge amount to the University when it is an obvious political donation does not reflect well on Montanans. The University should be a political.

There is already a building with his name on it.

Gianforte is not from Montana nor did he graduate here. It is great that he is interested in furthering the education of Montana graduates but his name should not dominate the campus. The world of computing is huge and should not be limited by one individual.

A small plaque near the door will suffice to acknowledge the donation.

PLEASE choose a name that does not include the donors name. Do not be impressed by money and charism thinking it will rub off or will be a reward and encouragement to give more money. Billionaires have their own agenda.

Do what is right for Montana and chose a neutral name for the computing building. As an MSU Bozeman alum, I encourage thinking about students and their future not about people seeking personal gain.

Montana State Computer Center is a perfect name. Buildings do not have to be named after people or foundations.

Charlet Sue Beland

Livingston, MT 59047
(406) 222-2970

Subject: Building named

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 11:18:54 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Sarah Muller

To: MSU News

I so oppose the idea of naming this building after Greg Gianforte.

He shouldn't even of been allowed to become our governor. I could maybe see a sign acknowledging his donation but that would be as far as it goes.

Thanks,

Sarah Muller

P.O. Box 392

Livingston, MT 59047

Subject: Naming Comments
Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 11:16:22 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Steve White
To: MSU News
Attachments: Gianforte Support Letter SW.pdf

Please accept my attached comments regarding the Gianforte donation issue that is scheduled for the next Board of Regents meeting.

Thank you,

Steve White

Subject: Naming of School of Computing Building on Montana State University Campus

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 10:55:35 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Anne Schumacher

To: MSU News

Dear Sirs/Madames:

I oppose naming the new School of Computing Building at Montana State University Gianforte Hall in response to the donation for the building by Governor Gianforte. Naming a building on our Montana land grant institution campus after a sitting governor with who-knows-what future political ambitions would appear to be nothing more than the acceptance of a bribe. Do we really have to stoop to this?

Sincerely,

Anne D. Schumacher

Anne D. Schumacher
4598 Alexander Street
Bozeman, MT 59718
406.581.9114
annebenschumacher@yahoo.com

If you think you are too small to make a difference try sleeping with a mosquito-Dalai Lama

Subject: MSU naming of computing facility

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 9:38:40 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rick Hamilton

To: MSU News

I feel as a MSU alumni that it is appropriate to name the facility Gianforte hall. The donation needs to be recognized and respect given. The negative comments appear to be coming from students and faculty whom will benefit from the new facility. Show some respect or going forward large gifts will be harder to attain

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Gianforte Discrimination because of politics.

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 9:11:28 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: dorothy louise bakken Armstrong

To: MSU News

This is wrong and whoever made this decision should be removed or fired. This is a political prejudice!
Sent from my iPhone

Subject: ACCEPT

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 9:08:42 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: dorothy louise bakken Armstrong

To: MSU News

This is political discrimination at its worst! I am a Bobcat alumni. Tell me that you do not receive any donations (republican nor democrats who have given funds) that involve any prejudicial requirements. Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Naming of building

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 8:17:59 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Carol Fifer

To: MSU News

Dear Regents,

It is far too soon to consider naming a building after Governor Gianforte or The Gianforte Family Foundation. Tracy Ellig's suggestion they are two different entities is thin. They are one and the same, which is perfectly obvious to all. It gives MSU (and Dr. Cruzado) the appearance of groveling in desperation for the donation.

There is good reason for your guidelines of avoiding naming a building after a person in political office, especially when that person is only half way thru their first term as governor of our state.

Thus far Governor Gianforte has produced a negative view of our State on a world wide scale. It is far too soon to contemplate condoning such a high honor on a sitting public official.

The donation could have been made with the stipulation that the question of naming the building after Governor Gianforte or the Gianforte Foundation be considered by the Board of Regents posthumously, or in a certain period of time such as 30 years.

At this point it appears to be an obvious attempt to buy the goodwill of voters. When a gift is given or donation made it is up to the recipient to decide how to use it. No strings attached. There surely are other options for naming a building, but incorporating the Gianforte name is highly inappropriate. This naming could surely result in legal action as one might construe the donation as a political election expense. I seriously doubt the Board of Regents, MSU, Dr. Cruzado, or Governor Gianforte care to wade into those murky waters.

I request the Board of Regents decline to name the new building, or include the name "Gianforte" .

Sincerely,

Carolyn A. Fifer
1007 Buckrake Ave
Bozeman, Mt 59718

406.451.3880

C

Subject: Gianforte Hall Comment

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 8:01:08 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Joseph Hauck

To: MSU News

Hello,

As an alumnus of MSU, I want to submit a comment regarding the proposed building name "Gianforte Hall." I think it is completely inappropriate and unethical to name a building after an active politician. As a public institution, MSU should avoid all perceptions of political favoritism.

Thank you,
Joseph (Joe) Hauck
Belgrade, MT
MSU Class of 2015

Powered by Cricket Wireless

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 7:33:51 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Pat Krogstad

To: MSU News

The donation is significant, enough that their foundation needs to be recognized.

While Gov. Gianforte is in office, the building could have a interim name. Once he is no longer in politics, then rename the building after their family/foundation.

Subject: MSU Naming of Gianforte Hall

Date: Friday, April 29, 2022 at 7:14:21 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Alex Russell

To: MSU News

Honorable MSU Board of Regents,

As a graduate school alumnus of MSU, I strongly object the the naming of the school of computing, Gianforte Hall.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Alex Russell
Livingston, MT

Subject: Gianforte naming

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 11:34:22 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Annick Smith

To: MSU News

I strongly oppose naming a building after our sitting governor. This will be seen as a long lasting tribute to conservative Republicans and as a blatantly political act. The fact that it honors donations by his family foundation does not diminish the impact of a state university choosing to take political sides by naming a building after a highly controversial former Congressman and Montana's current governor.

A fine university such as MSU can only be tarnished by choosing to go forward with such a biased action.

Sincerely,
Annick Smith
898 Bear Creek Road
Bonner I, MT 59823
Sent from my iPhone

Subject: (none)

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 8:23:37 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Chris

To: MSU News

There must be someone else in the history of Montana that would be more appropriate for a new building name at MSU Bozeman. I would cite his religious insistence that the earth is 6,000 years old, his donations to a creationism and his definition that since Noah was 600 years old, a retroactive assessment (as per the Bible, not accounting for the fact that the current calendar designation wasn't used until the 1500's) and worked every day of his life. He has had a You tube video removed in which he states if we all did the same as Noah, we wouldn't need Social Security anymore.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: Naming Comment

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:57:53 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Becky Foster

To: MSU News

Naming a building after a person equals an endorsement of that person. You know that. I stand firmly against naming anything after Gianforte or his family. He does not represent anything remotely representing the Montana values I am familiar with. I absolutely support accepting the gift with great gratitude. I do not support it if it comes with naming strings attached. I am rather fond of "Cutthroat Hall" or naming in honor of an honorable Indigenous person. I respectfully suggest Earl Old Person or Eloise Cobell.

Subject: Naming Conventions

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:48:12 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: robotsdancing@gmail.com

To: MSU News

As an alumna of Montana State University who went to school for computer science I think it is absolutely inappropriate to call the new hall Gianforte hall. The Gianforte Family Foundation have a history of donating to the Alliance Defending Freedom who wrote an amicus brief for the Supreme court case that decriminalized same sex activity nationwide in favor of continuing the criminalization of same sex activities, who support fights around the world to continue to have same sex activities remaining criminalized, and has been listed as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center since 2016. Greg Gianforte, one of the founders and trustees of the Gianforte Family Foundation, assaulted a reporter in 2017 and illegally killed a wolf in 2021. Finally, it appears to me that a sitting governor having a building at a state university named after his last name due to a monetary donation is a massive conflict of interest. If the new hall on campus is called Gianforte hall I will no longer feel comfortable saying that I am proud to be a bobcat.

Subject: Naming MSU Computer Science Building

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 6:33:22 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Chas Buus

To: MSU News

I think that whoever or whatever group that's donated money to go towards a new building should be able to name it whatever they deem appropriate. Race, ethnicity, political affiliation, gender, personal beliefs, ect; should not be taken into account. The fact that some students and faculty are attempting to barr the name proposed on the basis of those protected classes I mentioned is hypocritical. MSU is a place of diversity and inclusion except "this one time and this one instance". Hypocrisy is rotten pole and anyone who leans their basis of argument on it will see their intentions fall. Also if it has to be named something else then why can't it relate to computer of science instead of something random?

Hopefully my voice is heard.

Sincerely,

Chas Buus

2020 MSU Alumni

Subject: RE: Gianforte Hall Naming

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 5:42:55 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Herb Thackeray

To: drichbiz22@gmail.com

CC: Chris Murray, MSU News

Just when you thought people couldn't get any stupider they come up with this BS! If someone is going to give you \$50 million dollars what idiot is going to say "Well we'll take your money but won't recognize you for your generosity - we'd rather name the building after a fish or a bird". I suspect the people who opposed the Gianforte Family Building contribute the same amount of \$ to MSU that the fish and birds do! I certainly hope the powers that be consider where their bread is buttered rather than just continue to alienate friends and alumni who want to give back! I think Pelosi, Killary, FJB etal are truly despicable human beings - but if they wanted to donate \$50 million to MSU I would say "WOW! THANK YOU VERY MUCH! THE LEAST WE COULD DO IS NAME THE BUILDING AFTER YOU!" (and I'm sure Gianforte's wealth came thru far more honest means than theirs). LEAVE THE POLITICS OUT OF IT and be GRATEFUL!!!

Herb Thackeray
MSU '79

-----Original Message-----

From: drichbiz22@gmail.com <drichbiz22@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, April 28, 2022 12:11 PM

Subject: Gianforte Hall Naming

There is a strong contingent of students and faculty fighting against naming the new computer building for the Gianforte family who is donating \$50 million towards its construction.

No matter which side of the political spectrum you are, it would be good to share your opinion for the Board of Regent consideration. I know it is pretty much one sided right now.

Del

Subject: Opposing Naming a Building for Gianforte

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 5:02:31 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Karen Booker

To: MSU News

Dear MSU,

As an alumna of MSU, I strongly **oppose** naming a building after Gianforte. The Board of Regent's policy is clear. Gianforte is an elected official currently serving in office, so a building may not be named in honor of him. He already has the School of Computing named for him since he made it a condition of his earlier donation. I would support placing a plaque on the building acknowledging the donation. Further, several of his actions and policies lead me to agree with the student resolution that says Gianforte does not fit within MSU values. Please don't honor a man without honor just because he's wealthy.

Thank you for seeking input from Montanans.

Sincerely,

Karen McNeal Booker

BS 1966, MS 1968

Subject: Building Naming Comments

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 3:48:42 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: ponymont@3rivers.net

To: MSU News

RE: Comments on the possibility of naming a building Gianforte Hall.

Long after this wolf killer, mountain lion killer, reporter puncher has gone back to wherever he's from, any building named after him will forever be called "Giant Fart Hall" and that's just not fair to the building. Don't do it.

Patricia Garback
Pony, Mt

Subject: Gianforte Hall, c/o Naming Comments

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 2:47:27 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Connie B. Chang

To: MSU News

I am writing to request that the Board of Regents oppose the naming of the new building as Gianforte Hall. I am concerned that the donor's name will be tied to the institution, that MSU's reputation will be that of one representing a highly controversial person who is anti-LGBTQ and was cited for physical assault. It is a substantial gift and honor; however, moving forward with this name will weaken our university values of inclusion ("We create a civil, supportive and respectful environment where difference and diversity are sources of strength.") and integrity ("We commit to honesty, ethical behavior and accountability."). Strong consideration should be taken into naming a building or space after Gianforte, which will not be inclusive of everyone on campus. Considering the protests surrounding the Gianforte building at Stevens Institute of Technology, moving forward with this name will weaken MSU's global reputation, undermine the recent advances we have made to increase diversity and inclusion, and obstruct future efforts.

I ask that the Board of Regents oppose naming the building with this name, after someone whose position and actions do not align with MSU's values of inclusion and integrity.

Connie Chang

Subject: Naming of MSU proposed building - Gianforte Hall

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 2:25:21 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Brady Ernst

To: MSU News

Dear Montana State University and the Board of Regents,

As a former MSU graduate, and a concerned citizen, there are two common sense reasons for not naming the new computer building after Montana's current Governor.

1. Considering the current Board of Regents naming policy is to "*not name after elected officials*", there should be no circumstance where wealthy politicians can buy their way around public policy.

Elected officials are public servants, and serve at the pleasure of their constituents; ethically, and morally, the Governor oversees funding for public universities, and therefore must not have the appearance of any quid-pro-quo (ie, naming of a building "Gianforte Hall" in exchange for future funding.) While there is an exception if the "giving warrants some form of recognition," the larger the donation - the greater the importance should be to uphold remaining neutral to all political viewpoints.

2. The University is a public institution and has been used as a Gallatin County election polling center. Montana law dictates that political campaign signs cannot be near polling places. So, for all future elections that Governor Gianforte is on the ballot - is the University supposed to cover or tarp the building to hide its contents?

Even if this building is over 100' from the polling center, the influence and promotion of one political candidate, along with the high likelihood of protesters, located on the same campus will undoubtedly be a reminder of political persuasion.

Considering the Gianforte Family Foundation did not stipulate a caveat that the donation would only be provided if granted ultimate naming rights; in order to remain completely non-partisan the University must remain neutral to all viewpoints and political ideals.

Charitable donations are supposed to be for the benefit of the charity - in this case, a worthy donation that supports computer science and MSU students.

Indeed, some form of recognition is warranted. A plaque. An honorary ceremony. And even let the Family Foundation choose one of the 3 proposed names or offer up an alternative name of their choosing; but under no circumstance shall the computer building be named after a current elected official.

Sincerely,
Brady Ernst

Subject: Gianforte naming Committee

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 2:21:31 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Bill Jones

To: MSU News

CC: twodot08@gmail.com

Board of Regents,

We are, without any reservations, in favor of naming the new building to be built with \$50,000,000 donated by the Gianforte Foundation the Gianforte School of Computing.

This is not a donation that came out of the blue. This is a donation from a family foundation that has supported MSU, Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley and by extension the State of Montana for at least 20 years and I predict for many years into the future.

This building will provide future students with new state of the art hardware that will benefit their education and benefit the computer industry worldwide. It is exciting that MSU has the opportunity to offer one of the best facilities in North America to provide this quality education. Sophomores in high school don't realize it yet, but they have an opportunity in a few years to attend MSU and study and learn at the Gianforte School of Computing.

The Board of Regents, has within their power the ability to rule in special cases in favor of a proposal such as this.

We urge the Regents to approve this request.

Sincerely,

William P. Jones, President

Deborah J. Jones

Twodot Land and Livestock Co.

Box 769

Harlowton, MT 59036

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 1:35:41 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: gobobcats@midrivers.com

To: MSU News

We certainly thank the Gianforte family for their most generous gift to Montana State University. And yes, by all means, name the hall Gianforte Hall. Just as the Jacob Jabs and Norm Osbornson buildings were named for those generous individuals.

William Miller - class of 1964

Gloria Miller - class of 1965

Subject: Naming Comments Gianforte Hall

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 1:14:13 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Del and Dena Richter

To: MSU News

CC: Presdent_Cruzado@montana.edu

I SUPPORT the naming of the new building Gianforte Hall and I appreciate this significant support toward the Gianforte School of Computing at Montana State University.

As MSU continues to grow, I have a vision that we become the premier university in the Northwest and someday is spoken in the same breath as Stanford or CalTech. This vision requires funds as we strive to reach that excellence on all fronts.

I am pleased that the Gianforte Foundation would use valuable resources to support our university system in Montana and a gift of \$50 million is due appropriate recognition. There are so many non-profit institutions sorely in need of funding and the fact the Foundation chose MSU is to be applauded. I also believe that Mr. Gianforte and his foundation have illustrated over multiple funding donations including completion of Asbjornson Hall, the School of Computing and now this donation that I sincerely want to continue to encourage that support for years to come.

Some would try to discourage contributions from those who are not of a similar political stripe or belief system and my personal experience is this would only drive those funds elsewhere to others in need. I know because my wife and I are both members of the President's Circle at MSU and we have both identified and discussed diversifying our contributions.

I am a person who supports funding from the left, the right and those in between across the spectrum of society. I find it troubling that those at a university would attempt to exclude the breadth and diversity of people, thinking, beliefs or donations to those who only agree with their belief systems or political values. Universities are a place that should be safe for free expression no matter your spectrum and Mr. Gianforte is welcome to support my university, MSU, any time.

Del Richter
Bozeman
CE, 1974

Subject: Gianforte Computer Building

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 1:04:19 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: TJ Cape

To: MSU News

I 110% support naming the new computer building after Gianforte.

Anyone who donates that much money to the university for a new building certainly deserves to have it named after them. He has done a lot to bring jobs and industry to the state of Montana. Naming a building after him is the least you can do to honor him.

Theresa Gillin Cape

MSU Alumni

Class of 1976 - Microbiology

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 12:27:43 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Alana and Ralph Smith

To: MSU News

We don't really care, we just wish he could be removed from office for belonging to his treasonous party.

[Sent from the all new AOL app for iOS](#)

Subject: MSU Board of Regents must follow its naming policy

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 12:19:58 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: catherine legge

To: MSU News

MSU Board of Regents must follow its naming policy concerning Governor Gianforte's Family Foundation's \$50 million donation for the construction of a building which is the following: "a building may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently employed by the university system or the state of Montana, including statewide elected officials until one year after the end of their term."

By not following the naming rules, the Board of Regents appear to value money over the integrity of following rules that avoid political expediency.

We highly value MSU's academic excellence, intellectual independence, and its focus on students, teaching, and research. If the Board of Regents do not follow the naming rules, MSU's reputation is in grave danger of appearing to value money and political power over the integrity of following MSU's naming rules.

Sincerely,
Catherine and Mike Legge
9300 Nash Road
Bozeman, MT 59715

Subject: Opposed: Gianforte Hall

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 11:52:36 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Yvonne Rudman

To: MSU News

CC: Rudman

Thank you for taking community comment regarding the naming of an MSU building.

I am a former MSU administrator and graduate student and am disappointed that MSU is even considering naming a building on campus as Gianforte Hall.

Governor Gianforte and his family foundation do not represent the values to which MSU aspires.

- Gianforte, as candidate for governor, assaulted a reporter, violating civil behavior and free speech standards.
- Gianforte, as governor, signed into law anti-LGBTQ legislation
- Gianforte, as citizen, donated funds to organizations classified as 'hate groups' by the Southern Poverty Law Center
- Gianforte, as hunter, killed a wolf without the required license, and went on to kill a mountain lion under questionable circumstances.

Gianforte's personal and professional behavior is an embarrassment to the state and the university.

A Regent's policy states university buildings should not be named for current elected officials, except under warranted situations. I hope the warranted situation will not include allowing votes by regents who were appointed to their positions by Gianforte. These regents should recuse themselves.

Do not scar the university and campus by naming a building after a man who history will judge as a person of low character. Gianforte does not deserve to buy his way into and to be upheld in the pantheon of revered MSU persons.

Yvonne Rudman
Bozeman, MT

Subject: opposition to new building named after Gianforte Family
Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 11:33:36 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Nicole Ritter
To: MSU News

Dear MSU officials:

As a Bozeman resident, Montana taxpayer, and proud Montana University System graduate, I am writing to oppose naming yet another MSU landmark in honor of a current Governor Greg Gianforte and his family. Doing so would be a clear violation of the Montana Board of Regents' own policy, not to mention a further broadside against the reputation of Montana State University as a top research university.

Some other opponents will certainly talk about the conflict of interest for a currently serving politician to use his own vast personal wealth to purchase influence in Montana. Others are likely to mention Gianforte's disgusting and violent assault against a reporter simply trying to ask a simple question about health insurance. Still more will discuss his family's long-standing religious war against the LGBTQ+ community, or their funding of a school that discriminates against special education students. All of these are important considerations.

However, I would like to directly address the incongruity of MSU allowing the lionization of a family that consistently funds anti-science initiatives, including a "museum" dedicated to "discrediting Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and promoting the idea that the Earth is just 6,000 years old, that humans and dinosaurs roamed the planet at the same time, and that dinosaurs were on Noah's Ark" ([Huffington Post, Sept. 20, 2020](#)). Gianforte himself rejects evolution and is a climate change skeptic. His scientifically unsupported views on "herd immunity" have contributed to Montana's staggering COVID-19 death toll--3,354 Montanans and counting. And, although he personally has benefited from the protection of vaccines, Gianforte has also financially supported prominent anti-vaccine politicians and policies.

I can't help but wonder what the late vaccinologist Maurice Hilleman, one of MSU's most prominent and world-changing graduates, would think of his alma mater contributing to the ongoing process of whitewashing Greg Gianforte's extreme views. Please consider the message you are sending about MSU as an institution and reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nicole Rosenleaf Ritter
University of Montana '96

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 10:57:30 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: wtgillin

To: MSU News

Dear MSU,

As a Montana native and Bozeman resident, I'm proud of the positive impact that Mr. and Mrs. Greg Gianforte have had on our state. I think it's a wonderful thing that the family is sharing their wealth to further the education of Montana students with this extremely generous donation to build a new computer building. Therefore, I think it is appropriate to name the building after them.

Please do not let a small number of disgruntled students block naming the building for the generous donors.

Sincerely,
William T. Gillin
54 Tennis Ct.
Bozeman, MT 59718

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) secure email.

Subject: Naming Gianforte Hall

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 10:15:52 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Seymour, Joseph

To: MSU News

I am writing to request the Board of Regents not name a hall for The Gianforte Family Foundation. This is not a political issue it is an ethical issue. Mr Gianforte and his wife and their foundation have participated in climate science denial, rejecting fact based science which has reached consensus. This is a politicized unethical position, we need fact based science to survive as a species in the technology based world we have constructed. Mr. Gianforte and his wife and their foundation have equated transgender people with pedophiles, notably Mrs. Gianforte's documented comments on gender neutral bathrooms at a Bozeman City public meeting. This is not politics this is hate speech and a violation of individual human rights. Mr. Gianforte has physically assaulted a reporter asking a legitimate question on the Governors political position. This is not politics this is a violent illegal assault and the antithesis of support for 1st Amendment free speech rights. Mr. Gianforte and his wife and their foundation have repeatedly demonstrated themselves to be unfit for such a naming based on their conduct, not politics. Joseph D. Seymour

Sent from my iPad
Prof. J.D. Seymour
ChBE MSU

Subject: Speaking out against naming the new building Gianforte Hall

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 9:09:48 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Arnold Smithson

To: MSU News

Hello,

My name is Arnold and I graduated from Montana State University with a degree in Computer Science in Spring 2021. While I recognize the extreme worth of the donation and am very grateful for the Gianforte Foundation's continued support of education in STEM, I cannot in good conscience allow him to place his name on where I got my degree from. His name is already placed on the department itself; I do not think he needs an entire hall named after him. If potential employers look into where I got my degree from and see Gianforte's name associated with it, they may make assumptions about my character that I don't want to spend the energy refuting. I am proud of MSU and I don't want to start regretting where my education came from.

I also agree with the sentiment in the article written in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle about Inclusion. Gianforte has signed many anti-LGBTQ bills into law, which if he were a student at MSU speaking the contents of those bills as his own beliefs, he might be targeted for a Title IX infraction. I truly believe this will be a stain on MSU's history for at least a generation or two, and I don't want all the computer science students Gianforte doesn't represent to feel shame about where they're getting their degree. I wouldn't be surprised if this causes the demographic to sway more towards straight, white men in terms of who gets their computer science degree at MSU, which I wouldn't be surprised if this was a side effect Gianforte was hoping for.

Montana has been surprisingly progressive for a number of years, and it feels like under Gianforte's term, we are regressing as a people and allowing more hate into our lives, exacerbated by the current global conflicts. I advise MSU not to regress as well, or its reputation as an inclusive, friendly, diverse school will slowly sink into the mud like the Roskie and Hedges complex.

If you publish my comment for the Board of Regents, I would like to remain anonymous.

Have a good day,

Arnold Smithson

Subject: Naming a building for Gianforte

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 8:30:57 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: J Douglas Sangster

To: MSU News

Dear Sirs

This proposed naming a building for Gianforte is in direct violation of your published policies regarding the naming of buildings. You might try to wiggle around the issue by claiming a distinction between the Family Foundation and the person, but that is clearly an unethical dodge.

1. Let's be clear - this is a pure attempt to buy political influence. Period!
2. You should look very carefully at where the money comes from. Remember, his first company in the East was "founded" at the same time vast sums of Russian money from the breakup of the Soviet Union was sloshing around the world looking for places to be "laundered".

Thank you
James Douglas Sangster
Bozeman, MT

Subject: Gianforte School of Computing

Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:24:18 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Bruce Combs

To: MSU News

Folks

I am an alumni of Montana State and life-long resident of Montana, and am writing to encourage you to accept the Gianforte Foundation donation, and assuming it otherwise meets the criterion for naming a school within MSU, to do so.

Let me be clear: I did not vote for Governor Gianforte, but it is time to recognize that not everything has to be political. (But it is worth noting that a substantial majority of my fellow Montanans did vote for him and are pleased with his performance as governor. So if you wanted to look at it through a political lense, turn down the donation at your own peril.)

So please set aside the politics and graciously accept the generous donation. Montana State will be the better for it on both counts.

Go Cats!

Bruce Combs
Class of '85.

Subject: Adamantly AGAINST naming computing hall for Gianforte
Date: Thursday, April 28, 2022 at 7:05:27 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Aloha Johnson
To: MSU News

I am writing to voice my opposition to naming the new computing hall after Greg Gianforte. While I appreciate the hefty financial contribution that his family has made, his exclusionary social stances and his physical attack of a journalist do not fit the integrity and standards associated with a campus of higher education.

Please do not honor a man who does not respect and actively legislates against so many of the students who will be passing through that building. What an insult to the many diverse individuals to have to pass under the name of someone who stands in opposition to the very people they are.

Thank you for considering public comment on this decision.

Sincerely,
Aloha Johnson
MSU Student Parent

Subject: Naming new bldg after Gianforte

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 10:43:20 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Merrill M

To: MSU News

I'll get right to the point. I believe naming the building with the current governor's family name is a mistake. I believe history will not look back on Montana's current governor favourably and I think it would be a travesty to use the Gianforte name for the building.

I am a 5th generation Montanan and my father was a graduate of MSU.

Isn't there a name that could represent the history of Montana that would be lasting and not tied to a donation from a particular family. Especially one which divides so many Montanans.

Respectfully,
Merrill RiChey Meredith

Subject: Gianforte Donations

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 7:38:05 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: kristeen keup

To: MSU News

I object to naming a second building after the Gianforte Foundation.
Gianforte is still governor.

He cannot buy his way into pretending to support public education while he is actively trying to ruin it by partnering with our Superintendent of PUBLIC Instruction to support privatizing, charters and vouchers, while he is donating \$millions to Petra Academy, a private Bozeman school, while overlooking and ignoring the financial needs of our excellent Montana public schools. It is called Petra and not Gianforte Academy.

He wants to abolish **equity** from public education, citing "dire consequences".

WHAT? Equity is critical to the ethics of a broad, open education.

He and our OPI Superintendent want to water down public educator licensure.

He is not speaking out against the Koch family and AFP involvement all over Montana to take over local school boards (supposedly non-partisan).

Where does Governor Gianforte stand on this:

"Make no mistake about it. Americans for Prosperity, a Koch-funded, pro-privatization dark money group, has traveled Montana recruiting and training school board candidates, helping them raise tens of thousands of dollars. They say it's about "taking back the schools" in an attempt to pit parents against teachers, trustees, administrators, and each other, but the true goal is really something much different...

"The end goal of this politicization of curriculum, policies, and trustee elections is massive privatization. If they can get you to have negative feelings about public schools, then private schools will look like a good solution to the problem they manufactured in the first place. This is organized and funded by the charter and voucher promoters."

[The battle for Missoula's school board](#)

How last fall's masking controversy sparked a politicized showdown for control of the public schools' board of trustees.

ALEX SAKARIASSEN

Thank you for listening.

"The world is changed by your example, not by your opinion." Paul Coelho

"BE the change." Gandhi

Peace. Understanding. Light.

Kristeen M. Keup NBCT Fulbright Scholar Retired MT Educator

Subject: "school of computing"

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 7:22:02 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: F lees

To: MSU News

To put it bluntly, this is a disgusting proposal. Now he's trying to buy reelection, and that is no better than the first time he tried it. That's A. B. is he is not a Montanan: never was, never will be anything but a New Jersey carpetbagger trying to weasel his way up the red-state ladder for his own nefarious agenda. He is a violent person with zero "Montana values" and he has no interest in Montana values, only in his personal white, male, so-called Christian entitlement. C.) School of Computing sounds like something from the earliest '60s; think Twilight Zone, or Lost in Space episodes-- Danger, Will Robinson!!! Not any sort of leading-edge, 21st century technology??? He thinks he can buy Montana and, sadly, he may be right. But to credit him with a building on the campus of our state's highest institution of learning, just because he has the money to throw around, is to kowtow, to lower ourselves to his level of greedy self-promotion, and a sadness of our own making. NO to ANYTHING "Gianforte."

Most sincerely,

Francesca C. Lees

MSU-Billings, retired after 35 years

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Subject: Comments on Gianforte Hall

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 5:00:33 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Brent Roeder

To: MSU News

If you can't name a building after a sitting Governor who donates \$50 million to MSU, you have a broken system and should stop accepting all donations.

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 4:53:31 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: KenLinda Pierce

To: MSU News

Please do NOT consider this. Names are an important reflection of the values of a college or university. Does Governor Gianforte reflect or support these values? Has his leadership valued science, human rights, including the rights of women and minorities, freedom of speech. (aka, the journalist he attacked.), or the traditional rights of hunters including "fair chase"?

Don't let money buy your souls. Please find a person worthy of honor for this tribute.

Most sincerely, Linda Weston Pierce. BA Smith College 1960

Widow of Dr. Kenneth L. Pierce, PH.D., Yale University

Subject: Please Approve the Naming of the Proposed Computer Science Building at Montana State University "Gianforte Hall"
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 4:15:14 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: William Sanderson
To: MSU News
Attachments: Gianforte Family Foundation Gift.docx

Dear Montana State University System Board of Regents:

I am writing to urge the Board of Regents to agree to name the proposed, new computer science building at Montana State University being funded by the Gianforte Family Foundation, "Gianforte Hall".

I am fortunate to be a Montana State University alumnus in Chemical Engineering, a member of the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering Advisory Council and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Montana State University Alumni Foundation Board of Governors. During my years of service to the University, I have witnessed the transformative nature of the many generous gifts the Gianforte family has bestowed on the University, and the computer science discipline, in particular. The Gianforte family has consistently supported higher education in Montana through their many generous gifts for more than two decades.

The \$50 million Gianforte Family Foundation gift is another transformative gift which would allow the University to continue to dramatically expand computer science and complimentary interdisciplinary offerings to future generations of students. The proposed construction of the new computer science building would continue to build on their previous gifts to the Gianforte School of Computing and other generous gifts to Montana State University by the Gianforte family. A transformative gift of this nature would not only expand computer science education, but would provide long term, impactful benefits to the State of Montana in terms of potential business growth and employment for decades to come.

The Montana University System is extremely fortunate to have so many generous donors that are willing to invest in educating future generations of students to the benefit of our great State and Nation. The Montana University System has a long history of naming colleges and buildings after generous benefactors that provide transformative gifts to Montana State University, including the Gianforte School of Computing, the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, Jake Jabs Hall, the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering, Norm Asbjornson Hall and the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing.

I urge the Board of Regents to agree to name the proposed, new computer science building "Gianforte Hall" to recognize both the generous and transformative nature of the gift, but also the long history of generous support the Gianforte family has provided to Montana State University, and through expanding higher education in our State, to all Montanans.

Very truly yours,
William Sanderson
Lakeside, Montana

Please find a MS Word copy of my letter in the attachment.

Subject: naming comments

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 4:13:59 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Gloria Story

To: MSU News

My husband and I are both MSU Graduates and we strongly object to naming a building after Greg Gianforte a Science denier, and is making access to public lands difficult for the average Montanan. He signed into law H702 which is anti-health and anti-business. Please don't memorialize him by naming a Hall on our beautiful Paradise Valley.
Thank you,
Bill and Gloria Story, Paradise Valley

Subject: Gianforte building naming

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 3:58:40 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Janice Hand

To: MSU News

I would like to register my strong opposition to naming a building at Montana State University, Gianforte Hall.

My reasons:

- 1) The Governor is a controversial figure, both because of his physical assault on a Guardian reporter in 2017 and his illegal wolf trapping and killing near Yellowstone in 2021
- 2) I further don't believe it's appropriate to name buildings for current political figures
- 3) While the Gianforte Family Foundation is the donor, there's no separating the Foundation from Mr. Gianforte

May I suggest asking the Foundation to select a Montana name, and putting a nice bronze plaque on the front of the building (or in the lobby) naming the Foundation as the donor. That would seem to honor the exceptionally generous donation, while at the same time keeping MSU's name clear of controversy.

I am a MSU alumni and also an active supporter & volunteer.

I appreciate your asking for input from the public.

~ Janice

Janice S. Hand
388 Derek Way, Bozeman MT 59718
JaniceHand1@gmail.com
406-219-7766

Subject: Naming of new building

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 3:49:35 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: dorothonoreika

To: MSU News

Please DO NOT name the building "Gianforte Hall".

I am a MSU alumni and longterm resident of the Gallatin Valley. Money is not everything and should not determine that your name is placard on a building that is part of a diverse group of academia.

I would be disgusted and disappointed if that man's name rests on a MSU building. He does not represent the diversity of MSU and neither does his money!

Thank you,
Dorothy Noreika, 2004 alumni

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 11:01:07 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Dan Moe

To: MSU News

Dear MSU administration,

As an educator in the Montana University System, I would like to voice my opinion on the proposed naming of Gianforte Hall on the MSU campus.

Please do not name your new building, or any public space, after a family that has spent so much of their time, energy, and wealth on destroying access to public lands (a hallmark of what makes Montana great), widening the gap in income inequality in this state, and pouring gasoline on the bonfire that is the state's housing crisis. I know the money comes from the family, but Governor Greg Gianforte is certainly the most visible member of that family and, in his capacity as a public servant, has done little to protect this state from outside interests, greedy developers, and the billionaire class. In fact, he has enacted legislation time and time again to protect them.

The Gianforte's do not stand for the betterment of the university, the citizens that gain an education there, or the state that they call home. They want their name on public buildings and because of their generational wealth, no one questions it. Why not name it after someone who has contributed to Montana, the Montana State University, or the field of computer science? The Gianforte's are 0 for 3 on that list.

Thank you for your consideration. Go Cats.

DAN MOE

Baking & Pastry Chef Instructor

The Culinary Institute of Montana

Flathead Valley Community College

dmoe@fvcc.edu

Cell: 253-208-7094

Office: 406-756-3862

Subject: naming comments - gianforte

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 9:53:20 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Duncan Gilley

To: MSU News

To Whom It Concerns,

I am strongly opposed to Gianforte being able to name a building after himself, no matter how much money he's donated. Gianforte's character defects have been on display for years, and it would be unfortunate for the University to prominently display his name, again, no matter how much money he's donated.

Gianforte is a person who body slammed a reporter who was just doing his job and exercising his right to free speech and freedom of the press, and for which he was physically assaulted. Gianforte has not taken responsibility for that action nor had to make any serious reparation - in fact, he's now the governor. It should give the University pause to celebrate a person who believes it's ok to physically attack someone with whom they don't agree.

Gianforte is a man who supports creationism, including financially (the Creation Museum), never mind the overwhelming scientific evidence to the contrary. This also should give the University pause. It's one thing to welcome differing views - it's another to celebrate the notion that science and facts are just ideas and just as valid as myth. The University should stand with fact based thinking.

Gianforte is a mini-Trump. Celebrating this person validates the nonsense this country just barely survived. Gianforte is not from Montana, but only bought his way to the Governor's Mansion. He has done nothing to actually help Montanans. Celebrating him only validates the notion that everything is for sale and no commitment is required to the people one represents once one has gained the office.

Gianforte enthusiastically represents a party that would prefer that people who are different from the party mainstream not be around, and does everything it can to harm these folks. His name on a building would be unwelcome to the great many who are not like him.

Gianforte also enthusiastically endorses giving as much of Montana's priceless public lands to his friends to own. How is this in support of Montanans?

As an alum, I expect the University to uphold the highest standard of excellence in word and deed. Gianforte falls far short of that standard.

If MSU adopts his name for a building, it will confirm for many that the University exists primarily as a money making enterprise. If that's the case, fine. But, then, please dispense with any lip service to excellence in education and diversity. We will have seen the University's true nature.

Stand for truth, not dollars. Just say NO to Gianforte.

Sincerely,

Duncan Gilley

Subject: No on Gianforte Hall

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 9:47:43 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: angela yonke

To: MSU News

To who it may concern,

You can't name a building after someone who publicly attacked a reporter, no matter how much money the family gave the school. I wonder what would our communications department have to say about holding up a figure like Gianforte who does not respect investigative etiquette? Gianforte was convicted of a misdemeanor assault, had to complete anger management courses, do community service, and write an apology letter to the reporter. He also donated \$50,000 to the Committee to Protect Journalists. Looks like he can now pay off MSU to clear his name and whitewash past misdeeds. I teach at this university and it sends the wrong message to our students about being professional and conducting yourself as caring and compassionate humans in this world. Aside from moral misgivings, you will also have to accept the backlash and jokes which will be made across the country for this decision if you choose to follow through. You already have a \$50 million hall named after someone who supported conservative election manipulation. Please do not name a hall after Gianforte, he does not deserve accolades and validation from a respected institution such as Montana State University.

Sincerely,
Angela Yonke
MSU Art Instructor

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 9:07:05 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Bruce Peterson

To: msunews@montana.edu.

Thank you for opportunity to have input.

Appreciate the donation from Gianforte Foundation.

If I recall correctly, Governor Gianforte was in support of bill in last legislature that placed restrictions on MSU students being politically active. This support is in direct opposition to mission of Montana State University. His support is very significant opposition to education values of Montana and Montana State University. I cannot support Gianforte name on a university building at this time.

Technically correct that Foundation gave money, not the Governor. Do not expect any Montana citizen to believe that he did not have major input as to where the funds were going. I am sure that Governor did not give \$50 million and tell them to spend just any old way they please. Decisions should not be made just because we can find a loophole. The spirit of the elected official rule is clear.

Compromise- Let Foundation suggest short list of significant persons with MSU ties to be used as name on the building.

Compromise- When Governor Gianforte has ended being elected official then consider a name of the building. At that time he may have gathered a list of support actions that help the Montana university system and may override my very important objection.

Naming the building because of money, and in spite of existing process, just has an very bad odor. Names on buildings should signify more then money donation.

Thank you for your time and effort

Bruce Peterson
Fort Peck, Montana

Subject: MSU building name

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 8:16:26 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Karen Flater

To: MSU News

I completely agree with your students that G. Gianforte does not have values of “excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity and stewardship” that MSU represents. His policies are not for the common people of Montana nor do they better our lives. Amongst many things, he has chosen to turn down funding to feed food insecure children of this state and his punching of a reporter shows lack of constraint which a leader must have. He is for himself and his fellow rich wide privileged ilk. Thank you for allowing public comment in the naming of the building.

Karen Flater
Great Falls, MT

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: New computing building name
Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 2:03:20 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Ashea Mills
To: MSU News
Attachments: Outlook-20kl1euc.png, Outlook-cwgvjnhp.png, Outlook-rlmttfiv.png

Greetings,
Thank you for taking my comments.

I strongly oppose having Gianforte's name on the new computing building. He has done nothing to reflect the values that we as a community and MSU extol: excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity and stewardship.

While I am not an MSU student or alumni, and live in Gardiner, I feel very much a part of the larger community that MSU adds so much value to. It's likely my daughter will attend the University.

I would be abhorred to be reminded of his time in office by an important building carrying his name while he fought hard against everything I believe in, everything my family values, and everything my family relies on: our jobs in science and outdoor education, small business, public education, public services, healthy wildlife populations, healthy communities, public lands, environmental concerns, diversity, inclusive and most of all integrity.

While he may be willing to write large checks, his name on a building not only breaks your own rules, but would be a stain on campus. Accept the money, put a small plaque out front, and continue to be leaders in our community by naming the building something far more appropriate--my vote is for Meadowlark, our lovely, representative Montana state bird whose call often reminds me of R2D2 (see, there's a computing connection there!)

Thank you again for considering my comments.

Ashea Mills
406-223-5967

 *Walking Shadow Ecology*
Tours of Yellowstone
www.yellowstone.education



Subject: Building Naming

Date: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 at 1:01:04 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Anthony Stone

To: MSU News

Please, do not, under any circumstances, name any building after the current governor.

Lest you forget, he is a convicted criminal, for assault no less. Can you imagine if he had assaulted a woman? I doubt anyone would be electing him for anything but yet you're considering naming a building after a man who assaulted another man, unprovoked, as the victim was just doing his job.

If that's the legacy you wish to engage with, if that's the type of person you wish to be associated with, then I'm embarrassed to call myself an alumni of the Montana State University system.

But, I have no money to give so my message is going to fall on deaf ears. On the other hand, I've never physically assaulted anyone who was performing required tasks of their employment either so at least I can distance myself from anyone who wishes to align themselves with criminals.

It is embarrassing and ultimately disheartening that this is even a suggestion.

I guess MSU's soul is relatively cheap these days. \$50 million?

If you're going to get bought off, then at least hold out for real money.

Prostitution is illegal except for higher academia and elections in Montana.

Prove me wrong.

Anthony Stone

BA - 2002

MS - 2005

Billings, Montana

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 10:21:52 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Patti Zupan Williams

To: MSU News

I am responding to your ludicrous idea of naming a campus building after Gianforte. I will start by saying that I am a member of a long and proud legacy of MSU graduates and athletes. However, it has become much too obvious that institutions of higher learning have succumbed to the almighty dollar over academic integrity and apparently MSU is no better.

At what point in time did the very institutions that used to promote critical thinking and thorough investigation throw those ideals out the window in lieu of massive contributions? You tout these contributions as altruistic, when they are really ill-gotten gains through corruption, bullying and self-promotion. Gianforte is not only a non-native who assaulted a reporter, he bought and bribed his way to public office through corruption and bribes. Serious accusations? Then prove otherwise. Fact: more than half of Gianforte's political contributions came from Super pacs and billionaires, not individuals, crushing the amount raised by his opposition. Is this indeed a representation of the average American? Or a buy-in?

Just as we are now pulling down statues and deleting historic references of past 'heroes' who owned slaves, rigged elections and bought their way into good public standing, I have no doubt that in future MSU will be challenged by naming a building after this man. I am astounded that the only vetting done by Universities is to ameliorate your involvement by passing the buck blaming the lowest ranked person in the chain of command and then plead ignorance when found out. **Perform your due diligence, MSU Regents.**

In these grave and unsettling times instead of following the crowd by following the money, why not elevate an unsung hero? I'm sure there are many scholars, inventors and unselfish philanthropists who graduated or taught at MSU and are far more deserving than this hot-headed clown. If you want a politician, how about Mike Mansfield? The only message you would be sending to students by naming it after Gianforte is that greed is good and the person who dies with the most toys wins. Great. Just what America needs more of.

Here's an idea, how about naming it the Al Capone building? This is not a joke, in his time Capone was seen as the common man's hero. The only thing these common men failed to see is that he was flat out robbing them to feather his own nest. Sound familiar?

<https://publicintegrity.org/politics/how-slamming-campaign-finance-laws-helped-greg-gianforte-get-elected/>

<https://www.businessinsider.com/how-richest-members-congress-made-money-house-senate-2019-2#1-rep-greg-gianforte-1357-million-15>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2019/03/19/college-admissions-are-corrupt-because-universities-are-heres-how-fix-them/>

<https://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-montana-congressional-election-20170523-story.html>

Regents, please do your diligence, you have little time left and find a truly worthy Montanan deserving of having their name on a building.

Sincerely,
Patricia Zupan-Williams
Class of 1981

Subject: Naming building for Gianforte

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 9:49:07 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rebecca Gibson

To: MSU News

No way. Absolutely NOT!
Sent from my iPhone

Subject: NO to Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 9:34:44 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Shirl Ireland

To: MSU News

I do not feel that using the name Gianforte upholds the values at MSU. I much prefer Meadowlark Hall. Thank you for seeking public comment on the naming of the new building...

Shirl Ireland

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Input on the naming of Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 9:20:35 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Samuel Klusmeyer

To: MSU News

Respectfully,

Moving forward with the name Gianforte Hall will cement MSU's willingness to forgive aggravated assault against the free press for money in cold, hard reality.

Even disregarding his past assault, the team behind this decision would be allying MSU with a outspoken creationist. Surely there's a better option for an institution that prides itself on the creation of great thinkers, scientists and a renowned archeology program.

Speaking as an alumni, this political move is counter to all principles I was taught by MSU's faculty.

Thank you for hearing my piece,

Samuel Klusmeyer

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 9:12:50 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Mark Payne

To: MSU News

Dear Montana State University,

Thank you for providing me and others with the opportunity to comment on the naming of MSU buildings. While I understand the nation-wide challenge of funding for institutions of higher learning I am opposed to naming buildings after high-contribution donors.

My alma mater has changed the name of the building associated with my undergraduate degree twice since I was graduated. I have contacted them by phone and email voicing my concern for how this has alienated me as an alumnus and donor. Yes, I have not donated huge sums of money but I was a steady donor for years until the name changes. Changing the building name has separated me from the connection I had with my professional school-this might seem petty or short-sighted but how we "feel" about our university is important. "Feeling" is the foundation for remaining connected to your alma mater.

Here's a possible solution; continue to solicit and earn the donations of all donors and especially high-contribution donors with this understanding: MSU is honored to accept your donation and you and/or your foundatio

Subject: Computing center name

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:55:48 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Cindy Bowles

To: MSU News

Surely you can find another person to name this new building after. Gianforte is just too politically charged and just because he's a big donor should not be the reason. An inspirational educator from MSU would be a much better choice.

Cindy Bowles (Class of 1974)

Subject: Possible Gianforte hall Naming

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 6:43:38 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Judi Grimes

To: MSU News

This would be so not right. Trading a major donation for scruples, negative behavior modeling, and selfish anger actions are NOT what I hope all Montanans would support.

Subject: Gianforte - NO

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 5:43:45 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Colleen Eldred

To: MSU News

Absolutely not. Do NOT name a building after him. A travesty to the University.

Colleen Eldred
Gardiner, MT

Subject: Naming Hall - /Gianforte

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 4:44:23 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Wendy Wilson

To: MSU News

I would like to comment that the Montana State University should refrain from naming anything after Greg Gianforte. The University is open to all regardless of race, sex, or sexual orientation. Greg Gianforte has been an outspoken opponent to LGBTQ rights, given public testimony against the Non Discrimination ordinances by the City of Bozeman. Greg is not and will not be a supporter or advocate for LGBTQ individuals and his religious beliefs are not inline with what the University stands for. He has proven that he discriminates against LGBTQ individuals when he owned RightNow Technologies

Greg Gianforte is also on record stating evolution doesn't happen and there is no such thing a climate change. Montana State University can do much better than naming a hall after this very controversial and narrow minded individual.

Wendy Wilson
6060 Ross Peak Way
Belgrade, MT 59714
(406)579-4382

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 4:31:57 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kay Gannon

To: MSU News

We think the building should be named after the Gianforte's. They donated the money and deserved to have it named after them.

Thank you.

Kathryn Seitz Gannon '65

James H. Gannon '71

Thank you.

Kay Gannon

Subject: Building naming

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 4:21:40 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Catherine Caracciolo

To: MSU News

I am opposed to naming the building after Gov. Gianforte. His beliefs and behavior do not belong at a public university. In addition, he does not support public education and the “rules” of Petra Academy are evidence of this. The students of MSU have voiced their concern and should be heard as they are the reason the university exists.

It is wonderful that the Gianforte have donated such a large sum of money. However when you give any amount of monetary donation to an entity, there should not be an expectation of a return. MSU is not beholden to them for the money. A sincere thank you is all that should be given to Gov. Gianforte.

Catherine Caracciolo
MSU Alumna

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 4:17:05 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: David Nielsen

To: MSU News

I oppose naming Building after Gianforte. Gift is generous but he pled guilty to assaulting reporter just asking innocent question. His reputation is tainted and money does not not erase that for many.

David L. Nielsen

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Gianforte

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 3:37:37 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: gerry.d.lang@gmail.com

To: MSU News

Absolutely NOT!

Subject: Gianforte Building Name

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 3:31:35 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kristina Kurcinka

To: MSU News

To Whom It May Concern:

The financial contribution made by the Gianforte family is amazing and an incredible gift to the university and the education of future generations. Everyone is certainly entitled to their own opinion, but in no way can I support naming an educational building after Gianforte.

Montana State and the Engineering Department are places of high integrity and honesty. They are places where people of all races, religious beliefs and sexualities should feel comfortable and welcome coming to learn and grow. Gianforte was a successful businessman, but his leadership style represents none of the things that I just listed that MSU and the College of Engineering stand for. He has physically attacked reporters. He has actively and recently signed bills which allow for discrimination against LGBTQ+ people, women, and those of religious faiths which are different from his own. He is a polarizing leader, the kind that divides our states and country and does not bring them together. These are not the type of leaders that MSU and the College of Engineering create.

Again, while I recognize the significance of this gift, I think that MSU owes it to itself, the alumni and its future students to have names of buildings which represent people who support those who are different from them and create a welcoming environment for all.

Thanks,
Kristina

Subject: MSU Computing Building naming

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 3:20:15 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Hagen (US), Tony

To: MSU News

Hello,

I graduated from MSU in March 1989 from the School of Engineering. I am passionate about the wonderful institution and the continued growth locally and across the US via Alum and other collaborations (ARL, etc...). I would like to make input as follows on naming the building after the Gianforte family.

*Computer Science demand is skyrocketing and Montana wants to be in a position to benefit from these impactful and high paying jobs

*The engineering, business, and nursing buildings have all been named after their generous benefactors

*The Gianforte family have been long time supporters of Higher Education in Montana

*This is an long term investment in Montana and MSU

Tony Hagen

Vice President & Chief Engineer

Boeing Global Services

425-213-7533

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 2:52:11 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Jess Baker

To: MSU News

Good afternoon,

My name is Jess Baker. I live in Bozeman and work for Gallatin county. I'd like to express my opinion that the new computing building on MSU's campus should not be named after the Gianforte Hall. Governor Gianforte's conduct has been less than stellar or respectful to people who aren't similar to him. I hope the University is able to choose a name that reflects our wonderful community or maybe an innovator from the computing practice.

Jess Baker

Subject: Fw: Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 2:46:21 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Doug Easterling

To: MSU News

Doug Easterling
4541 Ethan Way, Unit C
Bozeman, Montana 59718-6622
Mobile: 847.857.8116
E-mail: gustavus45458@yahoo.com

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Doug Easterling <gustavus45458@yahoo.com>
To: msunews@montana.edu <msunews@montana.edu>
Sent: Sunday, April 24, 2022, 02:02:35 PM MDT
Subject: Gianforte Hall

The Regents should obey their own rules about waiting a year until after a public employee or elected official is out of state employment for before naming anything after that employee regardless of the size of the donation that employee has made to a public entity. To do otherwise implies that the Regents and Montana State University can be bought for a price even at the risk of getting involved in controversies that employee may engender in an election campaign. Put a plaque on the building stating the source of the donation that made the building possible if such recognition is necessary to feed the ego of the donor. Shame on the Regents and the university for letting this matter remain unresolved for so long when there's a rule that states how the matter should be treated.

Doug Easterling
4541 Ethan Way, Unit C
Bozeman, Montana 59718-6622
Mobile: 847.857.8116
E-mail: gustavus45458@yahoo.com

Subject: Naming of MSU computer sciences lab

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 2:30:41 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Marcia Leritz

To: MSU News

Please consider this letter in opposition to naming the new computer sciences building, "Gianforte Hall." The guidelines clearly state that a person must have vacated an office for a year before a building can be named after them. Students worked to get this on the rule books and for good reason.

Would you consider these qualities as exemplary for students of MSU?

For example, since his time in the public light, Gianforte:

- Sued the State in 2009 to block access to the East Gallatin River where it crosses his property, and settled out of court.
- Illegally killed an elk too young to be harvested in 2000, which he admitted while running for congress. He was fined \$70 after reporting the mistake.
- Assaulted a respected reporter and was never charged.
- Trapped and killed a radio-collared black wolf in violation of state regulations and was slapped with a written warning.
- Chased, shot and killed a mountain lion that was being monitored by national park staff and clearly radio-collared.
- Has donated over \$12 million to Petra Academy, a private, religious school in Bozeman that discriminated against children with special needs.
- Actively supports privatization of schools.
- Signed anti-LGBTQ 'Religious Freedom' legislation

There is no question the Gianforte Foundation is unwaveringly generous in support of the college and other civic organizations. His career and proven backing of technology is to be commended; however, money should not be the only consideration in the important naming of a building for perpetuity. It would be appropriate to install a plaque on this building stating his generous contribution. There will undoubtedly be some ensuing controversy if this name is chosen.

I would suggest it be named "Babbage Hall" after Charles Babbage who in the 1800s invented the precursor to the modern computer. Or consult our very famous computer museum for ideas.

Thanks for allowing the public to comment and good luck with your important decision.

--

marcia rueter leritz | 8648 panorama drive east | bozeman, MT 59715 | 406.539.5450

Subject: Gianforte Hall naming
Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 1:35:27 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Ryan Parker
To: MSU News
CC: Gunnink, Brett
Attachments: image005.png, image006.png

To whom it may concern:

As an Engineering Alumnus from MSU (BS I&ME '96), I wanted to add my support in favor of the naming of Gianforte Hall. The Gianforte's have been long time supporters of higher education in Montana, and their latest generous gift will have a lasting impact on the State of Montana and the world. Computer Science is a rapidly growing field, with exceptional impact, and high paying jobs. As a CEO of a software company, I can attest, first hand, how valuable this skillset is. As such, this gift will also help Montana add thousands of high tech jobs in the State. Finally, naming the building Gianforte Hall would keep with the MSU precedent of naming each building after their generous benefactors, like has happened with Engineering, Nursing, and Business.

Regards,



losci

[Ryan W. Parker, CEO and Founder](#)

(602) 317-3338

www.losci.ai



Subject: Building Name

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 1:32:06 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: joelmowrey6@gmail.com

To: MSU News

Good afternoon,

I am responding to the article about the naming of a building on campus for Gianforte.

Although I do feel strongly that Gianforte does NOT represent the values of MSU and, therefore, should not have a building named for him due to his financial donation, I want to also respond in a more general way.

Regardless of the politician involved and the amount of money donated, I do not believe it is a good idea to name buildings after political figures. I like the suggestion of a plaque on the front of the building, and even in the inside entrance, to document the donation from the person/family. As much as I like our past governor, Steve Bullock, I would not recommend that he get a building named for him either (or Biden or Trump for that same reason).

I would go further to add that perhaps the only names on buildings should be for past faculty and administrators of MSU. Avoid controversial people (e.g. politicians, businesses folks with strong political views, religious figures, General Custer) and stick with people directly connected to MSU who have shown years of service and dedication to the principles and values of your great university!

Thank you for letting me share my views.

Joel Mowrey
Resident of Livingston, MT

Subject: No to Gianforte

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 12:52:44 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: paul burns

To: MSU News

Please do not name any more buildings or rooms or auditoriums after a known criminal such as Greg Gianforte. It would be no different than naming a building after a rapist or murderer. The man committed a serious crime and does not deserve recognition, no matter how much he panders to the university by throwing excess amount of money at it.

There are many people who deserve a building named after them but he's not one of them. Please consider someone with a connection to MSU such as an administrator, student or faculty member.

Paul Burns
Class of 1983

Subject: Gianforte and building name

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 12:25:44 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Tom Stonecipher

To: MSU News

Hello,

I am a long-time supporter of godless Democrats in Montana. I also support MSU.

I totally support naming the building after the Gianfortes. Theirs was a wonderfully generous act which will benefit Montanans of all political stripes immensely over decades. Their political, social, and religious beliefs aren't mine, but then whose are? I say Thank You for such a rare gift. It will not swing elections, just help Montana students qualify for great jobs. Tom Stonecipher

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: (none)

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 12:04:33 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Scott Crichton

To: MSU News

I went to see Governor Greg Gianforte recently when he was hosted by the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Center here in Missoula. The topic of that evening's Mansfield Dialogue was "Reflections on the Challenges & Opportunities for Bipartisanship". The conversation was moderated by his close friend and political ally, David Bell of ALPS Corporation.

He spoke with high praise about Jordan Peterson, a controversial Canadian psychologist and former Harvard professor, upon whom he relies for inspiration and direction. Peterson unabashedly promotes patriarchy and steadfastly advocates that men should be in charge of society because they are better suited to run things than are women. He thinks America should go back fifty years in how we assign appropriate roles for men and for women.

Gianforte went on later to say he liked to think he "had a soft touch" when it came to politics. I found that more than ironic since in 2017, as reported in the Bozeman Chronicle, Gianforte pleaded guilty after he body slammed a reporter from The Guardian. He misled authorities investigating the incident.

If wealth is what matters most, by all means, go ahead and name the building for him. But doing so would be turning a blind eye to his absolute arrogance and attitude that he is above the law.

The fact that his politics undisputedly disrespect bodily autonomy when it comes to criminalizing abortion rights and denying basic human dignity for LGBTQ individuals. In 2022, that ought to disqualify his name from consideration.

Respectfully,

Robert S. Crichton

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 11:51:09 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Steve Hample

To: MSU News

I don't always agree with Greg on some political issues, but Greg and Susan and their foundation have helped the community in many ways.

He has made earlier donations / support to help computer science topics. Giving this much money for a great building is super.

So YES to naming it Gianforte Hall

- Steve

--

Stephen R. Hample

Retired from Hample & Peck Financial Planning & Investments and The TrustPeople, Inc.

Community Involvement: Bozeman Sunrise Rotary Club, Glen Lake Rotary Park, One Valley Community Foundation, Friendship Force International, Frontier Angels

Subject: (none)

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 11:11:29 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Karen Schweitzer

To: MSU News

Please do NOT name the new computing building after Gianforte. He does not represent the state of Montana in a positive light. Gianforte does not seem to believe in science, evolution, LGBT rights, gun control, or a woman's right to choose abortion, or any other progressive ideals. He is mired in the 50's regressive politics and shouldn't be represented at MSU even though he tries to buy respectability through donating bucket loads of money.

Karen Schweitzer, MSU class of 1975

Bozeman, MT

Subject: Name of building

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 11:11:09 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Marcella Prinkki

To: MSU News

Please do not name the new computer building after Gianforte even though he gave many dollars to the MSU Foundation. He had one already has one named for him.

Marcella Prinkki

Class of 1974

Sent from my iPad

Subject: (none)

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 11:00:46 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Karen Schweitzer

To: MSU News

Subject: Naming Comments/Gianforte

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 10:58:17 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Cara Wilder

To: MSU News

I would like to register my strong opposition to naming MSU's new building "Gianforte" Hall.

Firstly, I don't believe any hall on campus should be named after any politician, regardless which side of the aisle they're on, or how much money they give. The current policy states: "...a building may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently employed by the university system or the state of Montana, including statewide elected officials until one year after the end of their term." This policy should not be broken simply due to the size of the donation. That is basic 'pay for play', quid pro quo. So only the highest bidders get their names on buildings? And it follows then that if Sen. Jon Tester gives \$50 billion for a new building, we'll have Tester Hall across campus from Gianforte Hall? Where does it end?? Donations made by politicians should be accepted as a gift to the college and its students with absolutely zero strings attached. A plaque outside of the building acknowledging the donation should more than suffice. If it doesn't, that indicates the donation was made in the spirit of self-recognition by the donor, not a selfless donation to the students.

Aside from not breaking policy rules, as a current Gallatin College instructor and mother of an MSU freshman I am absolutely opposed to naming anything for Gianforte. MSU is an institution of higher learning; a place of academics, science, and intellectual pursuits. Gianforte is the antithesis of all those things. He rejects science, is a known liar, and has been convicted of assault. He believes people and dinosaurs coexisted and funded a "museum" that states it as fact. He actively disenfranchises marginalized populations, and seeks to destroy the idea of government for the people and replace it with increasing power and profits for the ultra rich.

It would be absolutely shameful if MSU abandons organizational ethics so Gianforte can buy his name on a building.

Thank you,

Cara Wilder
Bozeman

Subject: This alumni rejects Gifarte name attached to any building on campus

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 10:41:56 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: GLAM DN Collins

To: MSU News

There are numerous alumni, Montanans who have held up our values.

Montanans who've fought for a better Montana for all.

Greg is nothing but a criminal, body slamming a reporter and refusing to answer questions of the press while hurling insults. And, then he totally lied about his actions.

He's a cheat that violates hunting regulations. Who really kills a trapped animal and calls it hunting? Only Gifarte.

Greg thinks he's above the law.

The only place his name should be placed is on a garbage dump.

And, as Congressman he voted against certifying the election, claiming a fraudulent election.

Greg thinks his money can buy his way into or out of anything. Don't let this happen.

Rankin Hall, Eck Hall, Baucus Hall, Metcalf Hall, Mansfield Hall, Quist Hall.

There's also many Native Americans that deserve the naming honors.

Anyone but Greg Gifarte.

Ms. Dulaney N. Collins

MSU class of 1982

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 9:32:47 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: John Miiller

To: MSU News

No problem with that name. They donated the money

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: Alumna opposing Gianforte naming

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 9:30:39 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kris King

To: MSU News

Greetings from an MSU alumna, class of 83. I was distressed when the MSU Board of Regents previously made the egregious decision to name a school after Greg Gianforte. I am appalled that you are now considering naming a building after him, going against your own policy, and the earnest feedback of your own students, yet again.

As a Montanan who now works in tourism management, I spend much of my time trying to counter Gianforte's shameful policies and behavior. Potential visitors are alarmed that the Governor shoots trapped or treed wildlife, with no intention of eating them or engaging in fair chase hunting ethics (see Jim Posewitz), assaults a reporter, and champions legislation or policies that give the rest of the world the impression that Montanans are homophobic, transphobic, mysogonistic, anti-public education, anti-science, do not value public health, separation of church and state, or evolutionary science - and that we are all heavily armed in public spaces. I imagine these regressive indicators are also not ideal for recruiting MSU students.

History will not treat Gianforte's overweening hubris and disgrace kindly - why would MSU willingly choose to be stained by his sordid legacy? I urge you to prove that MSU is built on integrity, not groveling, by choosing a name for the new building that reflects lasting Montana values, like the state bird. Or you will be giving the proverbial bird to all Montanans and current and future MSU alumni who know that ethical and honorable behavior are greater measures of value than wealth.

Do the right thing. Truly, Kris King
MSU class of 1983, Livingston, Mt resident.

Subject: Re: Naming of MSU computer building

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 8:33:14 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Marcia Leritz

To: Collette Paintbox

CC: MSU News

Great letter, Collette. Plus both the lion and wolves were research animals and wearing radio collars. Cant you see that through your expensive scope??

On Mon, Apr 25, 2022 at 7:53 PM Collette Paintbox <collette.paintbox@gmail.com> wrote:

To whom it may Concern,

Please reconsider any suggestion to name MSU building after a man who, in spite of his denials, body slams reporters, trees and then "Harvests" rare and tagged mountain lions, kills wolves for trophies and otherwise has no regard for the environmental crisis we are presently enduring. Is this who you want to honor and respect? Mr. Gianforte continues to side with wealth, privilege and those destructive practices that destroy Earth.

He may be the governor of our state and he may donate millions to MSU but one cannot buy their way into respectability and honor. Not a good role model for those we are trying to educate.

There are many others of fine reputation, who have contributed to the betterment of our civilization that would be more suitable to carry the name of your structure.

Do you really want to have to rename your computer science building after the many protests you will have? How does "Body Slam" sound for the nickname of the computer science building?

Please think this through and before you buy into the false pressure of wealth!

Sincerely hoping you will do the right thing,

Collette Brooks-Hops
Bozeman, Mt

Subject: No to Gianforte Hall

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 8:17:25 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Marcia Leritz

To: MSU News

Subject: Gianforte Building

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 8:12:22 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Cheryl Bennett

To: MSU News

Dear administrators,

Please do Not name a building, in this beautiful state, for someone so inhumane. This goes against what MSU has stood for all these years. I imagine he has offered money for this honor, but even with that it is a disgrace. I pray this building is named after someone who has had a POSITIVE impact on our state. This person has not and his name gracing a building at the best University around is just wrong.

I have lived here all my life. 68 , almost 69 years. This is one of the saddest notes I have ever written. Please, I beg of you, do not disgrace MSU this way.

Kindest Regards,

Cheryl Bennett

2 No 24 th Ave

Apt. C

Bozeman

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Naming of a MSU building after Gianforte

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:53:13 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Mary Brutger

To: MSU News

I am submitting my hope that a building will not be named Gianforte.

I will simply state that money does not seem to be a wise criteria for naming a building, but rather the contributions a person brings to the university, our community and the state.

For me, the Gianforte name is associated with disrespect for not only a journalist, but also for people offering views different than Greg Gianforte's own whether they be religious, scientific inquiry, sexual orientation, environmental concerns etc.

I feel we have better role models to honor the naming of a major building on MSU campus with.

I also am happy with a plaque on the building noting the generous contribution by the Gianforte family.

Thank you,

Mary Brutger

11040 Taiga Trail

Bozeman, MT 59715

Subject: Gianforte Building Naming

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 7:24:01 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Randy Broadbent

To: MSU News

Please DO NOT give any buildings the Gianforte name. The school should not be naming buildings after anyone who denies fundamental science. One of the cornerstones of education is curiosity and open-mindedness. Flatly denying scientific proof is the exact opposite of those fundamentals.

Additionally, someone who has shown physical violence toward the media and supports those who hold racist, sexist, and xenophobic beliefs should not be celebrated on our campus.

Please keep the Gianforte name off the campus.

Thank You!

Randy

Subject: Naming School of Computing at MSU

Date: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 6:34:02 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Bill

To: MSU News

To Montana Board of Regents:

In regards to your intention to name the School of Computing at MSU after a rich man who funds a "creationism" museum in Glendale aimed at disinforming our youth about science and who punched a journalist doing his job asking questions of a controversial congressional candidate (himself): Shame on you for even considering it, and also for assuming that Montanans are so stupid as to not be offended by such craven antics as those which you are contemplating.

Bill LaCroix

822 Sweathouse Cr. Rd.

Victor, MT. 59875

Subject: Gianforte Building

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 10:30:02 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: CASA

To: MSU News

MSU should not associate themselves with a convicted criminal like Greg Gianforte. He assaulted a reporter during his election. He believes Jesus walked with dinosaurs! Please do not tarnish your great institution with Gianforte's presence.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Naming comments

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 8:56:37 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Erica Schnee

To: MSU News

Hello,

I am writing to oppose naming a proposed new building after the Gianforte family. The Gianforte family's political and religious beliefs undermine the importance of public schools in our democratic society. It would be unfortunate and hypocritical to lend credibility to those beliefs on a public university campus. Additionally, Greg Gianforte does not stand for the appreciation of diversity and tolerance that MSU has come to represent and advocate. Please do not name a building after the Gianforte family.

Thank you,
Erica Schnee
MSU Class of 1998

Subject: (none)

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 8:12:35 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Sharon Pattee

To: MSU News

I would vote no on naming a building after Gov Gianforte because he is affiliated with one political party. Montana has two. Just having a lot of money should not, in my opinion, be the criteria for naming MSU buildings. Seems like something more relative to Montana, it's people, its scenery, it's past would be more interesting and creative.

Sharon Pattee
Billings

Subject: New Computer Building
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 8:02:41 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: ddoug129@yahoo.com
To: MSU News
Attachments: 689FAAF5-1647-4598-9F23-03E81DA1D380.jpeg

Dear MSU:

When government leaders like Governor Gianforte formulate and pass laws to marginalize and dehumanize a group of people this is the result.

Do not name the new computer building after this man. By doing so you are tacitly endorsing his campaign to no less than extinguish a group of Americans he finds somehow threatening.

If he objects turn down his gift and search for donations from someone else or some other foundation or group.

Thank you.

D. Dietsch
Bozeman

Subject: "Gianforte" Hall 👎

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:50:34 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kevin Clark

To: MSU News

Regardless of any donations from his foundation, he is on the wrong side of history and does not deserve to be immortalized with the naming of a building. Any institution dedicated to higher education should be vehemently opposed to what he stands for.

Subject: On naming the School of Computing

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:18:08 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Amy Zarndt

To: MSU News

I strongly disagree with the idea of naming this building after Greg Gianforte. I believe it is in the school's guidelines on such matters that no such naming should happen till at least one year after the individual has left public office and I believe there are very good reasons for that. It was generous of the Gianforte family to donate those funds, but one should not be able to buy themselves political PR through such acts. In addition, there are strong reasons to not hold up our current governor as a model when it comes to understanding the sciences, and that should also carry weight in this decision. A small plaque acknowledging his support of this building, on the side, is quite sufficient. Let the name reflect something intrinsically local and recognizable as are some of the suggestions I recently read.

Thank you,
Amy Zarndt

Subject: Naming comments

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 4:52:04 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Libby Lowe

To: MSU News

Hello MSU community,

I am writing as a Bozeman resident and as someone who graduated with a PhD and who then completed postdoctoral work in the Montana university system. The latter is relevant because I invested, at personal risk, many years of my life in an academic system because I believe in the power of a free and open educational system and the essential role it has in our democracy.

I urge you not to name your new building after Greg Gianforte. His assault on a reporter and his harmful actions against the LGBTQ community has harmed freedom of speech and human rights. Naming the building after him would be the antithesis of what universities stand for, an attack on their guardianship against authoritarianism. Donating a large sum of money should not buy the right to gain status amidst wrongful behavior. Naming the building after him would send a message that freedom of speech at MSU applies mainly to the wealthy and powerful. Please chose a building name that makes MSU welcome to all.

Sincerely,

Libby (Lowe) Khumalo
2259 Gallatin Green Blvd

Subject: Naming the new building

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 4:47:53 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Shane Noble

To: MSU News

Considering the appalling behavior of Gov. Gianforte, I am strongly **against** giving the new building his name. No matter how much money his family donated, it doesn't take from his assaulting a reporter, disrespecting wolves with his illegal trophy hunting, and his unwavering support of Trump. I hope the building is given a name more in line with Montana's values.

Subject: feedback on naming of new computer science building
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 4:24:47 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: kaedingl@aol.com
To: MSU News
CC: kaedingl@aol.com

April 25, 2022

msunews@montana.edu

Re: feedback on naming of new computer science building

Dear Regents:

I was more than appalled to read in the April 24, 2022, edition of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle that there is a possibility that the University might name a new computer science building for Gianforte as his foundation had given \$50 million toward construction of this building. This only adds more insult to the injury that all Montanans who care about justice, good government, and our state's important Constitution are feeling since this Governor took office. State agencies that have been built by professionals over decades are being destroyed by this Administration. I know many people in numerous state agencies who have left or feel trapped by what this Administration is doing. Friends and others I know of who work in agencies from wildlife management to social services to public K-12 education to health care for the poor, mentally ill, and disabled citizens to law and justice are gone or no longer have the ability to adequately do their jobs. All these agencies are being dismantled and decimated by ideologues – NOT public servants – and this Governor is leading them. This Administration is abysmal, and it will take years to recover from the havoc they are inflicting upon Montanans.

The potential naming of this building with this man's name would violate rules the Regents set for themselves. With an exception to that rule, you would only be groveling at the boots of a person who is seeking more power and the appearance of high standing who, in truth, has no honesty, integrity, morals, or values. All he wants is power and control. All across the country, universities and colleges are reviewing names affixed to buildings that were named for individuals who should never have been memorialized – and with the honest eyes of history, many of those names are being struck from those buildings. Don't put future Montanans in the same position to review a mistake you make in 2022.

I was shocked by the naming of the School of Computing for this person in 2016 after an \$8 million gift. Don't compound that egregious mistake with another. I OPPOSE naming this building after Gianforte. If you must, a small plaque outside the building is much more than he deserves.

Beth Kaeding ('73 and '75 MSU grad)

1024 Boylan Road
Bozeman, MT 59715
kaedingl@aol.com

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 4:15:47 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Adrienne Wallace

To: MSU News

Does anyone remember that this man reacted aggressively to a reporter? Does our land grant institution of higher learning condone what this man stands for? Really? Other than donating a lot of money, is there ANY respectable reason to name a building after him? Please please please DO NOT DO THIS. Gianforte has shown his true character, lack of adult maturity and lack of dedication to peace over and over again. This is like the opposite of taking down statues of Civil War Criminals in the South. A rich, rude white man gets a BUILDING named after him in MT? UGH. No. No. No. No.

Subject: (none)

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 3:28:33 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Paul Grimstad

To: MSU News

Isn't MSU a science university? This guy is anti-science/creationist, why would there even be this discussion regarding him!?! He has money, not from Montana and the worst part, a politician!! He cares about himself and votes for the next election....period. It will be shameful and disgusting to name anything after this guy 🖐️!! Hopefully you folks can see beyond the money and do the right thing for Montana!!!

Subject: Fwd: NO to Gianforte!!!!!!!!

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 3:27:48 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Peg Brownlee

To: MSU News

Greetings,

You had asked for input from the public about a building being named after Gianforte. PLEASE do NOT put his name on the building!!!! He is, in my opinion, corrupt. He is oblivious to his constituency unless it is totally in agreement with his agenda. He is a ruthless, bloodthirsty trapper, who kills animals for fun, just to display them as a testament to his "manhood". It is well known that he killed a trapped, collared wolf this year, in addition to other non-problem animals.

Please do not accept his family's donation if it means glorifying this fat-cat, mean-spirited, entitled excuse for a human being. I suggest asking that the donation not be tied to promoting this derelict politician.

Thank you,

Peg Brownlee

Florence, MT

Subject: New Computer Science Building
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 3:22:09 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Matthew Pettigrew
To: MSU News

Hello,

I'm writing in regard to the new computer science building that is proposed using donated funds from the Gianforte Family Foundation.

Gianforte's name should not in any capacity be attached to the building. Furthermore, his name should be stripped from the department of computer science.

As an alumnus, I strongly oppose the bigoted "values" that Gianforte expresses as his own. His ongoing rhetoric that demeans women, lgbtq+, individuals from the middle east, and Latinos is repulsive. Allowing his name to be placed on any building or department impacts the dignity of students, faculty, staff, and the outlying community that belong to each of these groups. Furthermore, his resoundingly discriminatory opinions directly contradict the values and mission put forth by the university. How can you say that you stand for excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity, and stewardship while also honoring an individual like Gianforte?

Again, please refrain from naming any new buildings after Gianforte and do everything in your power to remove his name from the CS department. Other naming options provided by the students that honor our beautiful state and home are far more appropriate.

Best regards,

Matthew

Subject: Building name

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 3:21:43 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Bud Benjamin

To: MSU News

Absolutely not! He should be banned from Montana politics after his assault on that reporter. I am sure there are more deserving names.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Student Opinion on the Proposed Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 2:43:28 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Cole Shultz

To: MSU News

To whom it may concern,

I am Cole Shultz, a sophomore here at Montana State University. I am writing this email to indicate my opposition to naming the new building donated by the Gianforte Family Foundation after said Foundation, because of the poor decisions made by Mr. Gianforte, as well as his pursuit of policies antithetical to our values as an inclusive, land-grant institution.

Surely, the first thing that comes to mind when considering controversies caused by our governor is his horrible and unjustified assault of political reporter Ben Jacobs in may of 2017, a crime for which he was convicted and punished by our judicial system. But other actions of his also are cause for concern. He has broken Montana law on hunting at least twice, first by killing an elk in October of 2000, and more recently by killing a wolf in 2018. Clearly, his actions show a disregard for submitting himself to the law and to criticism, something which Montana State University should oppose.

His other values are also cause for concern. Mr. Gianforte is a young-Earth creationist, a position not at all supported by science, and particularly opposed by some of our leading paleontologists both here and next-door at the Museum of the Rockies. While we're all entitled to our own beliefs, even if they're wrong, the real danger is that he brings his Christian faith into office and other secular locations. His donations to organizations advocating for a nationwide ban of same-sex marriage are another indictment of his beliefs that his faith should trump our secular values, which should be opposed feverishly by our institution.

Simply put, I believe that MSU naming the building after him, because of his \$50 million donation, would be intellectually bankrupt and go against our principles as a secular, inclusive, and respectful land-grant institution. Mr. Gianforte has displayed none of these values in his personal life, and has actively worked to undermine them while in office and with his wallet, by trying to restrict voting rights and donating to organizations fundamentally opposed to the separation of Church and State. Please do not name it after him.

Thank you for your time in reading this email, and I will be attending the public comment session this Wednesday at 4:30 PM.

Cole Shultz

Subject: Comments on naming Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 2:34:58 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Altizer, Katherine

To: MSU News

Hello,

I wanted to submit my concerns for the listening session because I will not be able to attend in person.

As a current employee and alumni of MSU, I do not think it is appropriate to name a university building after a political figure regardless of their party. There are diverse people attending, working at, and contributing to MSU. To name a building after a political figure could alienate current and future stakeholders because it portrays MSU as standing with those political leanings. MSU should be as neutral as possible to provide a supportive environment to all the students and employees.

I have further concerns given Governor Gianforte's standing on immigration that came out in the paper today. Students and staff at MSU may have family members or friends who are immigrants, or they themselves may be immigrants with unstable immigration status. To name a campus building after someone who is so staunchly against immigrants and their families makes MSU less welcoming to our diverse and vibrant population.

Thank you for listening to my concerns,

Katherine Altizer

Front Office Assistant Manager

University Health Partners – Medical Services

406-994-2311

Subject: No to Gianforte building name

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 2:11:28 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Vicki Nelson

To: MSU News

Naming a building after our current governor, Greg Gianforte, is not something to be bought with his own money - it's a title to be earned. He needs to prove himself worthy, which he has not yet done.
Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 2:09:22 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Max Ziegler

To: MSU News

Hello,

I would like to voice my opposition to adopting the name "Gianforte Hall" as I do not believe we should name public buildings after individuals convicted of violent offenses, as it could be interpreted as an endorsement of assault.

Thank you,

Max

Subject: (none)

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 1:51:16 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Chris

To: MSU News

There must be someone else in the history of Montana that would be more appropriate for a new building name at MSU Bozeman. I would cite his religious insistence that the earth is 6,000 years old, his donations to a creationism and his definition that since Noah was 600 years old, a retroactive assessment (as per the Bible, not accounting for the fact that the current calendar designation wasn't used until the 1500's) and worked every day of his life. He has had a You tube video removed in which he states if we all did the same as Noah, we wouldn't need Social Security anymore.

How about Mansfield Hall, or how about Marsha Goetting? Or Dorothy Aasheim? Both ladies were instrumental in the extension programs from MSU. How about Jesse Wilbur, artist? Or Helene Michael, engineer that promotes women in engineering?

There are loads of people that have made some great contributions to the greatness of MSU.

Chris Winterrowd

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 1:44:55 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Hayden Ayre

To: MSU News

To whom it may concern,

As an alumnus of MSU, I would be extremely disappointed in the school and the board of regents if the hall were named after our current governor, Greg Gianforte.

He has a terrible track record of persecuting anybody that does not fit into his limited worldview, particularly members of the LGBTQ+ communities which many current and former students belong to. In addition, he has a documented history of violence wherein he sought to intimidate and limit freedom of the press by physically assaulting a reporter. A crime that he faced little to no consequences from. Further, he has endorsed both implicitly and explicitly anti-scientific views and misinformation which should run completely contrary to the mission of an institution dedicated to higher learning, Especially an institution which routinely markets how much research funding it receives in order to draw in more students.

Honestly, the list could be never ending, but that's just a few things for example, however, any one of them would be enough not to name a hall after him. Ultimately, if MSU chooses to ignore the many people who are against the naming, it sends the message that a person's wealth is enough to buy their way out of any consequences and represents an implicit endorsement of all the horrible things he stands for.

Regards,

Hayden Ayre
Class of 2018

Subject: Proposed building name

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 1:37:03 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rick Whitman

To: MSU News

No! The proposed new building should not be named after Gianforte. I don't care how rich he is nor how much money he donates to MSU.

I agree with the resolution penned by three MSU student senators that Gianforte does not fit with MSU values of:

“excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity and stewardship”

Mr. Gianforte is anti-science and anti-separation of church and state. I have no doubt, if able, he would eagerly buy the entire MSU campus in order to transform it into a religious institution.

Please do not name any building for Mr. Gianforte.

Rick Whitman
Livingston, MT

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 1:32:44 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Patty Fraser

To: MSU News

Hello,

I fully endorse naming the expanded Gianforte School of Computing, Gianforte Hall. The extraordinary gift given to MSU from the Gianforte family should be acknowledged by this honor. Not only was the donation given generously and freely, the Gianforte family has done very much to promote the advancement of computer science and education in Montana. I wholeheartedly vote yes to the naming of Gianforte Hall.

MSU alumni Class of 1985,

Patty Fraser

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 1:07:04 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Nanci Evans

To: MSU News

As an alumni and former instructor I highly object to naming a building after a political figure regardless of his contribution. We have many distinguished professors and alumni from which to choose. Gianforte can certainly pick from a large pool of names. Naming a building after the donor sets a poor precedent for academia.

Nanci Evans
M.Ed 1996

Subject: Greg Gianforte

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 1:02:03 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Matt Schoonover

To: MSU News

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matt Schoonover and I am writing to you today in opposition to your proposal to name a building after Greg Gianforte. My Mom is a graduate of your Nursing Program and my Dad and I are Football season ticket holders. Greg is allowed to spend his immense wealth any way he chooses, but principles and character should be taken into account when making such a monumental decision. A building name is a prestigious honor to bestow on someone, but it should be based on merit and accomplishment not the size of someone's bank account. Greg didn't start making donations to the university until his political career began, so it is reasonable to assume he only did this to help his political ambitions since he isn't from Montana and didn't graduate from Montana State. Naming a School within the university after him was bad enough, but if you keep this up, you will set a dangerous precedent that makes it appear you are only interested in the dollars and cents and not the morals and ideals that an institute of higher education should uphold.

Thank you for your consideration,

Matt Schoonover
1206 N. 24th St.
Billings, MT 59101

Subject: No to naming any building after Gianforte

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:56:49 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kate Ryan

To: MSU News

I am writing to say no to naming any building on MSU's campus after Gianforte regardless of how much money he donates. Not only is Gianforte holding public office, but he killed a Yellowstone wolf, and signed bills to further allow the killing of wolves. Plus, his psuedo-science doesn't align with the principles of our research university. And he assaulted a reporter. These are not values we need to celebrate. How about he supports public education and actual stewardship here in Montana?

K. Ryan

Subject: Gianforte hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:56:35 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: pattydenke

To: MSU News

CC: pattydenke@aol.com

It is my opinion, as a Montanan, a former adjunct instructor at MSU, someone who took classes at MSU, and mother of an alumnus, that Greg Gianforte does not embody what we want to hold up as "good" at a school.

Yes, he donates money.

It seems rather down the lines of "just throw money at it" instead of doing anything real.

Instead, it fences off fishing accesses, puts rip rap in rivers, shoots trapped and collared wolves without finishing getting his license, shoots the wrong game animals, shoots treed mountain lions, and, oh, yeah, beats up reporters for asking questions (which happens to be their job).

His administration as governor has been one of feckless ignorance (by which I mean, IGNORING the state of the state) and arrogance.

Fifty million dollars should not buy acceptance and long-term reward for a man who embodies the opposite of what others who have buildings named after them contributed: Leon Johnson Hall. Strand Union Building. Cooley Laboratory. Linfield Hall. Norm Asbjornson Hall. Romney Gym.

Perhaps in 50 years, we will look back and see a reason to memorialize him.

At present, naming a building after him is more akin to kissing his posterior than it is to honoring him.

Patricia M Denke, PhD.

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Subject: Naming Comments Re: Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:47:14 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Richard Gauron

To: MSU News

I am writing to oppose the future naming of Gianforte Hall. As an alumni of MSU (2011) and current resident of Bozeman I am familiar with Greg Gianforte and his family regionally. His continued comments and legislation(such as SB215) around religion and the LGBTQ community fundamentally go against the inclusive environment the MSU I went to purportedly strove to create.

His assault of a reporter in this very town was an embarrassment to the civil discourse and resolution of conflicts I so often was taught about in my major (international relations) and was the back bone of learning. Additionally, his continued efforts to exclude public from accessing their land is an attack on a fundamental tenant of MSU, stewardship.

A donation by its very nature is a gift without expectation of return. If his "donation" is incumbent upon the naming of said building it is a purchase not a donation. If that is the case it is indicative further that this is a public relations stunt for political gain or personal reputation, not an altruistic gesture designed at bettering the student body.

I believed the tenants of MSU when I was a student and now as an alumni, "excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity and stewardship". To allow said future construction to be named for Gianforte would show that the Regents of this college do not apply the same standards to themselves and donors as they do to the student body.

Subject: Building naming

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:46:11 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Ian Wallis

To: MSU News

I do not support naming a building after Giantforte. I do not support Big Money leading to such honor. Big Money has no place in our system of recognition or political positions.

Even if I did not feel this way. I wouldn't support Gianforte name used as he has done little to help Montana or his fellow citizen both because of his policies and actions. CDC guidelines being under minded by him is one example.

He has no Montana roots and Montana has many more individuals that better represent Montana and do not bring the national embarrassment his assault charge did and does !!!

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Building name

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:37:42 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Ritchie Boyd

To: MSU News

Strongly opposed:

1) it is against policy:

“The policy states that a building may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently employed by the university system or the state of Montana, including statewide elected officials until one year after the end of their term.”

I don't know why it should go any further, but I'll tell you a story.

I worked for many years at the Burns Technology Center, and for all the years I worked there, both while the senator was in office and after, the name created a polarizing effect among real and potential donors, in addition to regular clients and visitors.

Never mind how much or how little influence the senator had on our daily activities, the dye was cast and it definitely excluded donors and others who might want to do good academic work from working with us.

Either wait till he is out of office, or give him the option to name the center after an actual computing hero, like Alan Turing or Ada Lovelace.

Subject: Gianforte Hall input

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:37:07 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Griswold, Mattie

To: MSU News

Hello,

Please do not name a new campus hall after Gianforte.

Thank you,

- Mattie

Mattie L. Griswold (she/her/hers)
Sustainable Food Systems
Graduate Researcher
Montana State University, Bozeman, MT
208.481.0279

Subject: Naming of building

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:27:36 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: T IP

To: MSU News

In light of Gianforte's assault and battery record we recommend the building include the title choke slam as part of the naming convention (i.e.The Gianforte choke slam building of Business Administration). Might as well pay homage to the reporter at the same time. It's like a two-fer.

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy A32 5G, an AT&T 5G smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Subject: New Computer SCIENCE building at MSU

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:16:45 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Drew Nelson

To: MSU News

Hello,

My name is Drew Nelson. I am a student at MSU in the industrial engineering program. I oppose naming the new computer science building after Gianforte for 3 reasons.

1) prior to being elected to Congress he assaulted a reporter, his campaign lied about it, and he is still too much of a coward to answer questions about it. This is a very poor demonstration of integrity, a stated MSU value.

2) GOP policy under the current governor is terrible for LGBTQ people which runs counter to MSU's stated value of inclusivity.

3) GOP under Giantorte are deliberately anti science. Greg doesn't even call it computer SCIENCE. Montana faces catastrophic consequences from climate change and the GOP don't give a damn. They want to eliminate testing based water standards in our crown of the continent position. So much of what MSU does depends on SCIENCE, and Greg had repeatedly demonstrated views counter to that foundational component of MSU. Sure \$50,000,000 is a lot of money, but it's nothing compared to the annual research funding at MSU.

-Drew

Subject: Naming of Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 12:16:35 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Wendy Riley

To: MSU News

I'm a Park County resident and have ties to MSU. I am strongly against naming the new Hall after Gianforte. Not only is he a controversial leader now, more negative information about him could come out in the future. It would be costly making a name change down the road (to maps, brochures, etc.) For this reason I think it's risky to name any building after a person. A nice plaque commemorating the donation allows flexibility and is more appropriate and practical.

Thank you,
Wendy Riley

Subject: naming comments

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:51:36 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Herb Thackeray

To: MSU News

I am all in favor of MSU naming a building for the Gianforte family or any family that is so generous to donate millions of dollars to MSU. If the woke liberals are all butthurt about it then have them contact their representatives and talk them into donating to MSU instead of just lining their own pockets.

Herb Thackeray
MSU Ch E '79

Subject: (none)

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:46:01 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Janet Armstrong

To: MSU News

I would say no to naming it after Gianforte. Absolutely thank them and maybe even thank them in a plaque. But to associate MSU by putting a name on the building of someone who displayed violence and a level of immaturity by assaulting someone is a hard no. Unless MSU supports that behavior? I would have sent my child to another school if I thought violence was supported by MSU

Subject: Request for public comment

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:42:50 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Faith Doty

To: MSU News

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing regarding the request for public comment on naming a new building on Montana State University campus after the Gianforte family. Regardless of political associations, I believe that this is a terrible idea.

I am a MSU Alumni, was born and raised in Polson, MT, and am moving my family back to Montana in a month to pursue a career with a Montana-owned and operated civil engineering firm. My husband is also a MSU alumni and is starting graduate school at MSU this fall. I am deeply invested in Montana for a home, a career, and a lifestyle.

Greg Gianforte has displayed nothing but anti-Montana values. He has disgraced our political system with his physical assault and poaching charges. His politics have sought to consolidate power in the State Government and weaken Montana's democracy. Creating a tribute to an out of state billionaire who is actively stripping Montanan's of their rights (see clean air and water amendment to the MT constitution) is one of the worst decisions Montana State University or the Board of Regents could make. As a MSU alumni, I would certainly never donate to an institution that pandered to someone like Gianforte.

Thank you for your consideration,

Faith Doty

--

Faith Doty

Pronouns: she/her

Water Quality, Environmental Protection & Compliance

Los Alamos National Laboratory

406.589.5217 | [LinkedIn](#)

Subject: Do not name new building "Gianforte Hall"

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:39:34 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Daniel Rosinsky-Larsson

To: MSU News

Hello,

According to https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/montana_state_university/montana-state-university-seeks-input-on-proposed-building-name-gianforte-hall/article_b995de4a-727c-5db3-b4a1-7c11b90a7562.html, you are soliciting comments on the proposal to name a new building "Gianforte Hall" following a \$50 million donation from the Gianforte foundation.

I recognize that it is common for universities to name buildings, rooms, etc. after major donors. However, this donor is a current political figure. It is also normal for institutions to recognize that current public figures may require different treatment than other individuals.

As a candidate and politician, Greg Gianforte has made statements and taken actions that are contrary to the goals of education and inclusion that Montana State University embraces. As governor, he has disenfranchised LGBTQ individuals, weakened funding for public education by redistributing public funds to non-inclusive religious schools, and threatened public health by dismissing the reality of COVID-19.

As long as Gianforte remains a public figure, the use of his name on a campus building will be an endorsement of him as a politician and the values he stands for – a permanent lawn sign for a candidate, touting his name and implying that this politician and his values are responsible for the education provided at the university.

The university could gracefully offer to rename the building in recognition of the donation -- once Gianforte has decidedly and permanently exited public life and politics. Until then, Montana State University must not name this or other buildings after current active political figures – particularly ones whose values and actions are contrary to the mission of MSU.

Sincerely,
Daniel Rosinsky-Larsson
Alumni, M.P.A. 2018

Subject: Fwd: Comment on Proposed Building Name, Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:38:13 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Michael Miller

To: MSU News

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed building name; my comments follow.

I am against this name. Mr. Gianforte's record does not justify this honor. He is Governor of the State of Montana, and as an elected official it is not appropriate for him to buy this sort of name recognition.

Honor is earned, not bought. The building should be named accordingly. I would hope that Mr. Gianforte, and MSU, would understand that.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Michael L. Miller, BS, MS Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, Montana State University

Philipsburg, Montana

Subject: Gov. Gianforte's 20 Million \$\$\$

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:18:46 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: ddoug129@yahoo.com

To: MSU News

Dear MSU:

I do not think Governor Gianforte should be allowed to have a university building named after him

He assaulted a reporter during his campaign for governor. He threw this person to the ground and began beating him. Then he lied to authorities that the reporter attacked him. Finally he changed his story and told the truth was found guilty. This says much about his character and the fact he is a by the nature of his great wealth is essentially a bully and not a person to admire or respect.

Also Gianforte is incredibly wealthy so a 20 million dollar gift to the university isn't really much money for him. He wants to get his name up in letters for perpetuity for his own vanity and self-importance. This isn't by itself a reason to not accept his money. But here is what is unacceptable: by giving this gift he is trying to normalize his hate. He wants MSU to accept his money and thereby tacitly accept his strong anti-LGBTQ and transgender views.

Naming a building after Gianforte would be a mistake and would be wrong.

If he was truly interested in helping the school and aiding students he would not care if his name was prominently displayed. But we know from his dealings with Stevens Institute in New Jersey this is not the case. He will not gift MSU unless he gets his way. In other words he is putting pressure on MSU to either name the building for him or forget about receiving the gift. This is the nature of a bully.

Finally, please consider that with with Gianforte's history of breaking the law (not only in an assault conviction but with hunting violations) there is a high chance he will engage in other bad and unlawful behavior that will embarrass MSU in the future.

Gianforte's extremist virulent hate of LGBTQ and trans young people will also bring disgrace to the university. This is why MSU should take a stand and inform Gianforte you have decided to name after a natural feature of Montana and will not use his name.

Thank you very much for listening to my opinion.

Sincerely,
Douglas Dietsch
Bozeman

Subject: Gianforte donation and naming building comment for Board of Regents

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:14:11 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Linda Healow

To: MSU News

Dear Board of Regents,

While I realize Governor Gianforte has provided another 50 million reasons why you should name a building after him, I strongly oppose that idea. Montana has roughly a million people. That means each citizen would need to write to you 50 times to match in letters the 'reasons' Governor Gianforte has donated. Considering what Governor Gianforte's administration has done to undermine educational access and content, healthcare for state citizens, science used in policy and simply human equality in the state, his appointments, his goals - naming a building after someone at Montana State needs to be an honor, a recognition for excellence in service, not simply a purchase. Isn't it enough that you've taken the word 'science' out of the MSU computer science program and renamed it the School of Computing? Check how many of the top schools in the nation have chosen that verbiage in the title of that particular program. When I checked the top 200 Computer Science programs in the US, there was only ONE. And that was a small university in the southern US near the bottom of the list.

While that's not a reason, it is an embarrassment and if you're trying to draw people interested in education, not lifestyle or politics, science and equality should matter.

I respectfully request that no building in the Montana university system bear his name. He's damaged the state, its reputation and its citizens. Gianforte will continue to do so until he leaves office.

Linda Killion Healow RN BSN MSU 1977

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:13:28 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: James Barutha

To: MSU News

Hello,

I would like to comment on the naming of a new building named for Gianforte. I believe naming any new building after Gov. Greg Gianforte (Gianforte Foundation) is inappropriate based on the Board of Regents Policy 1004.1 section 3, paragraph E which states that no building should be named for any Montana elected official. If the Gianforte Foundation truly wants to be Philanthropic a plaque on an inside wall of the building that shows they contributed should be sufficient. This proposal from the Gianforte Foundation seems to be a political ploy rather than philanthropic and besides does MSU really need another shiny new building at this time. I do not have any issue with naming any needed Montana State University future facility after an alumnus, university president or past faculty member who made a significant contribution to MSU during their time at the university. As I recall that couple that donated \$130 million to the MUS nursing programs did not expect a building to be named after them. Their donation was intended only to improve the university nursing programs for the betterment of Montana.

Sincerely,

Jim Barutha

Bozeman, MT

Subject: Fwd: Proposed new building named after the Gianforte family
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 11:11:34 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Niall Koefoed
To: MSU News

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Niall Koefoed** <nakoefoed@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Apr 25, 2022 at 11:08 AM
Subject: Proposed new building named after the Gianforte family
To: <msunews@monana.edu>

MSU Representatives,

I strongly urge the Regents NOT name the new building after the Gianforte Family. As the active governor, the influence this provides causes great concern as did the foundation's original gift while he was an active candidate. Accepting donations from political candidates has a lasting impression on the citizens and provides unfair advantages to the wealthy donors trying to manage our state.

Please do not consider changing your existing direction to NOT allow naming of buildings by politicians. Don't let the amount of donation change the existing policies.

Sincerely,

Niall Koefoed
Concerned Citizen

3782 Pipestone St.
Bozeman, MT, 59718

Subject: Gianforte hall naming

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 10:36:52 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Gary Shanafelt

To: MSU News

We read in the paper yesterday that the University wants to know what our opinion is on the naming of the building that the Gianforte family gave money to build on the MSU campus.

If we had 50 million dollars to donate to MSU for a building we certainly would not want our name plastered all over the front of the building because we supported the university. To us that is just saying; (look at us, we are filthy rich and are trying to make an even bigger name for ourselves). A small 8x10 plaque somewhere noting our contribution would be more than enough.

Mr. Gianforte has shown through his actions by physically assaulting a newsman during an interview and by the off the wall legislative decisions that were made this last Spring such as supporting open carry on college campuses that he has other agendas than the welfare of Montana people. He and his supporters are hell bound to do what they can to destroy our way of life here.

As past President Trump said upon learning of the assault carried out on the newsman by Gianforte, "he's my kind of guy"enough said.

Like was mentioned in the news article a small plaque somewhere noting their financial support of MSU is more than sufficient. We don't think that it would look good in the future when Gianforte is judged that it would look good that the university humored such a person of his moral character.

Gary and Chris Shanafelt
Bozeman

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 10:11:27 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Mark Payne

To: MSU News

Dear Montana State University,

Thank you for providing me and others with the opportunity to comment on the naming of MSU buildings. While I understand the nation-wide challenge of funding for institutions of higher learning I am opposed to naming buildings after high-contribution donors.

My alma mater has changed the name of the building associated with my undergraduate degree twice since I was graduated. I have contacted them by phone and email voicing my concern for how this has alienated me as an alumnus and donor. Yes, I have not donated huge sums of money but I was a steady donor for years until the name changes. Changing the building name has separated me from the connection I had with my professional school-this might seem petty or short-sighted but how we "feel" about our university is important. "Feeling" is the foundation for remaining connected to your alma mater.

Here's a possible solution; continue to solicit and earn the donations of all donors and especially high-contribution donors with this understanding:

'MSU is honored to accept your donation and you and/or your foundation for which you will receive both written and verbal recognition. Your contribution will also be recognized on a plaque that will be prominently displayed on the school building.'

This allows the public, students and staff to see who helped create or maintain the building in question without changing the building's name. It also allows MSU to add high-contribution donors to the plaque over the years without changing the school's name. Pretty simple, unless the donor/foundation is ego-driven and demands a building name change.

Best regards,

Mark Payne
Bozeman, MT

Subject: Naming of new computing building

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:47:22 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Suzy Sterling

To: MSU News

Greetings--

Please do not name the new computing building so generously funded by Gov. Gianforte after him or his family foundation. It would be highly inappropriate.

The current naming policy is a good one. Since the policy states that a building may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently holding statewide elected office until one year after the end of their term, it is clear that the new building should not bear the name Gianforte. No exceptions should be made in this case given the high profile nature of Gov. Gianforte's current position and likely future political aspirations.

Thank you for your consideration.

Suzy Sterling
Bozeman

Subject: Gianforte Hall naming comments
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:44:56 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: McKenzie, Alex
To: MSU News
Attachments: image001.png, image002.png

Hi,

I am opposed to having Gianforte's name on the new building, despite their generous gift. My opposition stems from two separate concerns:

1. His family's long-term engagement in anti-LGBTQ and anti-abortion policies will almost certainly have negative political implications as popular opinion ebbs and flows.
2. While his financial success due to the sale of RightNow Technologies to Oracle is very impressive, and is in many ways the sort of startup success story we want our MSU students to emulate, it's also a model that has proven unsustainable for the face of MT. Roughly 200 local jobs were lost when Oracle relocated a large portion of their workforce to TX. Our local VC community seems enamored with a growth strategy that is ultimately changing the social fabric of Montana (in my opinion, for the worse).

Is there another way to honor the Gianforte's generous gift without putting his name above the door?

Alex

--

Alex McKenzie | Instructor
Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship
Montana State University
Jabs Hall 450H
Bozeman, MT 59717



Subject: comment on naming of computing school/building

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:40:55 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Tom Lix

To: MSU News

TWiMC,

As noted by the seniors who have forwarded a resolution and identified that the Gianforte name doesn't fit into the values of excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity, and stewardship, I am sternly not in favor of allowing an exception. Lets examine for a moment the relative size of this donation in two contexts: - 1 for the university, this is absolutely significant and serves to enable the learning in computer science for decades to come – no question. – but, 2 for this individual, the donation is perhaps a reasonable price to pay for political gain and legitimacy. In our political world today, money equates to influence more than ever in my memory. A healthy suspicion about motive here seems to be justified.

With those points made, I would offer this – if the idea of the naming is not politically motivated and instead is genuine interest in public good, mr Gianforte would surely not have any concern with the donation being practically anonymous. This doesn't seem to be the case – if this insight is mis-informed in some way, the university should perhaps provide some safe means of adding to the context surrounding this situation.

Last – MSU also needs to be a good steward here and help to delineate the importance of principles. The universities own values need to be 'protected' here. The university is for public good – lets not make allowances/exceptions to extend that function to include serving as a billboard to someone with political gain as potential motivation because the size of the donation is the central justification of that exception. This is the wrong message and basis of exceptions if we 'value our values'.

Respectfully,
tom

Tom Lix | Process Engineering - Project Management
Kestrel Engineering Group Inc.
406.860.9856 | www.kestrelengineeringgroup.com

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Subject: re: naming any building at MSU for Greg Gianforte or the Gianforte Foundation

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:39:48 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Andy Lenssen

To: MSU News

Hello MSU,

As a former Assistant and Associate Research Professor with Montana State University, I consider it a poor idea to name any building after Greg Gianforte despite the gift of \$50 M USD by his foundation. Mr. Gianforte has been convicted of assault due to his body-slammng a reporter. Additionally, Mr. Gianforte has pleaded guilty for not one, but two hunting violations within Montana. Finally, Mr. Gianforte has supported the pseudo-museum in Glendive that shows the earth at only about 5600 years old. He obviously does not support the basis of biological sciences whatsoever.

During the recent election, Mr. Gianforte and his spouse repeatedly denied that they had ever tried to shut down fishing access to the East Gallatin river near their home, just upstream from McIlhattan Road. They were highly dishonest in these denials as many of us were verbally assaulted by them, or her, while fishing that stretch about 20 years ago.

Mr. Gianforte is not honest and he is a convicted criminal. Montana State University would do a huge disservice to its well-earned reputation by naming any building "Gianforte" or "Gianforte Foundation". What would be next if MSU did so, renaming the library after Casey Emerson, our former state representative who stated a number of times that there were a lot of books in the MSU library that should be burned?

Naming any building "Gianforte" should not happen under any circumstance.

Sincerely,

Andrew W. Lenssen
Professor Emeritus (from another university)
2257 Lasso Ave.
Bozeman, MT 59718

406-539-3927

Subject: DON'T name anything Gianforte

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:33:13 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Liz Sanders

To: MSU News

I've just visited the MSU site and searched on the word "Gianforte ". There were already 10 pages of indexed entries. I gave up after counting 51 of them, and that was only page 4.

The last thing we need is more Gianforte labeling. This is the person who has been convicted of hitting a member of the media. He also just recently killed a mountain lion which was hound-treed by others who waited 2hours for his arrival to do the deed; note that in the latest proposal of mountain lion regulations, this would no longer be legal (and has never been ethical). I could go on and on with other examples.

He is a poor excuse for a role model for our students and staff!

Vote NO.

Only thing that should be branded "Gianforte" is the toilet paper used on campus because he's such an asshole.

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Montana State Building name

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:19:00 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Cecilia Mink

To: MSU News

To whom it may concern;

In reading the Bozeman Daily Chronicle article on the proposed building name of "Gianforte Hall", I implore you to NOT allow this to happen. This would be detrimental to the reputation of the school, the education system in Montana, and quite frankly should NOT mix politics and education.

May I remind you about the incident of Gianforte body slamming a reporter, and the verbal language used.

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/video/2017/may/25/republican-greg-gianforte-body-slams-guardian-reporter-in-montana-video>

In 2021, he violated a state hunting requirement when he killed a wolf. He has recently been in the news again for using hounds to track and kill a colored mountain lion.

Regardless of whether people believe these actions are "right or wrong", do you want HIS controversy attached to the reputation of your school? Another point is his opposition to the sexual gender controversy. Whether someone believes in that or not, all schools should be inclusive. Those could potentially be lost enrollment (lost funds).

The students and the staff of the university have a very valid point having concerns of his "timing" of his donation.

Again, whether a person agrees or disagrees with Gianforte, his actions and controversies should NOT be attached to the school. This university has a great reputation and should remain so.

Honestly, if this wasn't a "problem" or at minimal a "concern", this wouldn't even be an issue, and the building would already be named. In my opinion, this is an easy decision.

I will say this, if this building is named after Gianforte, I personally know of Alum that will no longer contribute to this school, as they do NOT want to be tied to such an individual.

Again, I ask..... are you willing to risk the reputation, contributions and student enrollment decline (which means funding) to appease such a controversial individual?

Sincerely,

Cecilia Mink, a concerned Montanan

Subject: School of computing

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 9:17:11 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Nancy Ostlie

To: MSU News

I think you should name the new building the Gianforte School of Assault and Battery.

Subject: Public comment re: Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 8:27:57 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Brian Globerman

To: MSU News

I am opposed to the proposed naming of Gianforte Hall on the MSU campus. I do not believe that a waiver from the current policy regarding naming rules is justified regardless of the gift size. Once Gov. Gianforte has retired from state government, the naming issue can be revisited. In the meantime, a campus building should not be named for anyone currently employed by the state of Montana. This has nothing to do with whether or not I support the policies of the Gianforte administration, it is a matter of upholding rules designed to prevent conflicts of interest and undue political advantages.

Thank you,
Brian Globerman
Bozeman

Subject: Proposed name for new computer science building name
Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 8:12:46 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Katie Gibson
To: MSU News

Dear MSU Board of Regents,

I am writing to suggest a name for the computer science building to be built on the MSU campus. I propose naming the building after a famous female computer scientist. With women accounting for only 20% of computer scientists, we need to use the opportunity to shine the light on a female leader in the field. Promoting the inclusion of women in computer science is a sound educational and business strategy for the state of Montana. My two suggestions for names are as follows:

Ada Lovelace

London-born Ada Lovelace (1815–1852) had a passion and gift for mathematics from a young age. She is credited with being the world's first computer programmer, as she drafted plans for how a machine called the Analytical Engine could perform computations. The machine, invented by her friend, mathematician and inventor Charles Babbage, is considered to be the first general computer. Lovelace detailed applications for the Analytical Engine that relate to how computers are used today.

Lovelace is remembered annually on Ada Lovelace Day, held on the second Tuesday of October. The international day of recognition celebrates women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

Grace Hopper

American Grace Hopper (1906–1992) was an admiral in the United States Navy and a computer scientist who was one of the first programmers for the Harvard Mark I computer, which was a general purposes electromechanical computer used in the war effort for World War II, according to San Diego Supercomputer Center. In 1944, she created a 500-page Manual of Operations for the Automatic Sequence-Controlled Calculator for the computer, which detailed the foundational operating principles of computing machines.

Hopper is also the inventor of the compiler, an intermediate program that translates English language instructions into the language of the target computer. This invention influenced other computing developments, like code optimization, subroutines, and formula translation.

Hopper is remembered at the annual Grace Hopper Celebration, the world's largest gathering of women technologists.

Reference for the two biographical summaries: <https://www.purdueglobal.edu/blog/information-technology/history-women-information-technology-6-female-computer-science-pioneers>

Thank you for taking my input.
Katie Gibson
BS Electrical Engineering, MS Computer Science
Mobile App Developer and Partner at High Country Apps LLC
Bozeman, MT 59715

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Katie Gibson | www.highcountryapps.com | 406-223-4443

Subject: Fwd: Gianforte Hall - please no

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 8:11:07 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Nicole Smith

To: MSU News

Hello,

I'm a 4th generation Montanan. Please do not put Gianforte's name on one of your buildings- he does not represent Montana values or care about our way of life. He hunts our apex predators for sport, he is dismantling our safety net system which supports people with few financial resources, and he is actively seeking to withhold healthcare access to women and pregnant people. Also, he doesn't value Montana's public schools. I don't care how much money he gave the university, his name is a disgrace to our state. In fact, I would recommend holding a moral line and decline his donation.

Thanks for seeking public input.

Respectfully,
Nicole Smith, PhD, MPH
Missoula

Subject: Gianforte

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 8:09:13 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: mary fitzgerald

To: MSU News

Please do NOT name a new building after Gov. Gianforte! He is a disgrace, regardless of his lucrative donation. You would dishonor the integrity of MSU to do so. A plaque is sufficient.

Sincerely,
Fitzgerald MSU Graduates

Subject: NO on Gianforte Hall!

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:31:13 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: daphnewhite59@gmail.com

To: MSU News

I am a proud MSU graduate. My high quality BS degree from MSU gave me a great foundation and I subsequently received both a MA and a PhD from other schools. I have been a loyal graduate for many years promoting the school to both prospective students and faculty, and making yearly donations to MSU every year over the now decades since I graduated.

The idea that MSU, the school that helped lay my foundation for critical thinking would name a building after a person who's behavior is time and again incompatible with the values of this university is abhorrent to me. I understand that MSU is saying the building would be named after the "Gianforte family", however the name is and will always be associated with Greg Gianforte and be seen to have been named after him.

I understand the issues around funding for State schools but please do not sell the sole of this university for a shiny new building. The quality of the education is not dependent on the building, great professors, values, and mission matter.

I could go on and on listing the actions of Greg Gianforte that make naming a building after him wrong but you all know them. So I ask you not to sell the sole of this great school.

Daphne Minton White

Subject: Typo report

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:26:27 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: john ross

To: MSU News

Note the newspaper link had typo in address...

Begin forwarded message:

From: john ross <johnminorross@gmail.com>

Date: April 25, 2022 at 07:16:44 MDT

To: msunews@monana.edu

Subject: Bldg name comment

Greetings MSU,

I just was reading about your interest in thoughts about Gianforte used for a new building's name.

Politics aside, this seems to be the accepted way of securing funding around the nation's schools these days, from small colleges to Stanford—which has a campus corner named for three computer donors (including Gates). Hence, fine by me. Thanks, John

Subject: Fwd: Bldg name comment

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 7:23:09 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: john ross

To: MSU News

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Begin forwarded message:

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Subject: Gianforte

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:56:39 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Carole Boerner

To: MSU News

Why would you name a building of someone who beat up a reporter? He bullying you too?

NOPE NO DO NOT NAME ANYTHING AFTER Gianforte.

<https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.caroleboerner.com%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cmsunews%40montana.edu%7Cc22808eef41146fcfe0f08da26baede0%7C324aa97a03a644fc91e43846fbced113%7C0%7C0%7C637864881993678262%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWljiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzliLCJBTil6lk1haWwiLCJXVCi6Mn0%3D%7C2000%7C%7C&sdata=m6VvygCxNtnAvwyW%2FrH4Id1jCUEI19bYfJLKiowakfM%3D∓reserved=0>

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:56:10 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: David Loessberg

To: MSU News

Good morning,

I am submitting my thoughts and input on the proposed naming of "Gianforte Hall." For clarifying purposes, I consider myself an independent voter, often Fiscally Conservative and Socially Democratic.

I believe that MSU wants their buildings to be named after honorable people who have made a lasting impact or impression on the university system or the general area. I personally want the buildings to be named after revered individuals that everyone supports, if nothing else, to prevent potential backlash similar to statues of controversial figures currently being removed around the country.

Greg Gianforte is NOT an individual that would make me proud having his name on a building. He assaulted a reporter. He violated a "black and white" hunting regulation with his wolf trapping when he did not complete a requirement. These are items that were 100% within his control where, for me, he fell way short of my expectations.

Greg did not graduate from MSU and Greg is not from Montana. Yes, he did start an IT company in Bozeman that generated jobs, but he was opportunistic in that the labor cost was significantly low, relative to the industry. I know this because I was a manager at Oracle and had direct reports who came from RightNow Technologies. Yes, it was a company that created jobs, but mark my words when I say those people were SIGNIFICANTLY underpaid for the industry.

When I think of naming a building at MSU, a place where I grew up, a place I spent a significant amount of time (and money!) attending, a place that makes me proud to be a Bobcat, it would make me cringe to see his name on a building having no ties to the area, having made poor decisions in the public eye, and not even being a Bobcat. Furthermore, what message is sent when we allow people to just buy their name onto the buildings? It's another step towards "money rules everything." Instead, the university system should consider naming the building after a long-time employee who, by their decision to be a professor their entire career, will likely never have enough money to buy their name onto a building. That is something I can get behind, and if Gianforte TRULY cares about the building and MSU, that's something that HE should get behind as well.

Thank you for considering my input!

David Loessberg

2008 - B.S. Business Management, Jake Jabs College of Business

2003 - Manhattan, MT High School Grad

4th generation Gallatin Valley resident

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:53:49 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Brett Valentine

To: MSU News

Hello,

I'm writing in response to a Bozeman Daily Chronical story regarding the proposed naming of the Gianforte Hall. In spite of the large donation, I think you should consider his political track record and the legacy that reflects.

It is certainly not reflective of what I believe MSU stands for. Instead it will reflect: an exclusive atmosphere where only the wealthy belong, sacrificing wilderness to appease big businesses, disregard for equality, using fear mongering rather than intellect, political bullying, putting corporate profits above human best interests, and thinly veiled racism and homophobia.

The Gianforte name reflects alignment with Trump, one of the most embarrassing presidents in our nations history. As a comparison, we wouldn't name a building after senator McCarthy would we? This is a similar situation.

Please don't let MSU become yet another university that allows wealthy people buy their way into a clean image.

Thank you,
Brett Valentine

Subject: Re: Proposed naming of Gianforte Hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:35:54 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: President Waded Cruzado

To: edward dratz

CC: MSU News, Ellig, Tracy

Thank you very much, dear Ed.

I am copying Tracy Ellig, who is collecting all Public Comment in regards to the naming of Gianforte Hall.

Take care,

Waded

Sent from my iPad

On Apr 24, 2022, at 3:48 PM, edward dratz <edratz@gmail.com> wrote:

I am strongly in favor of the new building to be named Gianforte Hall but I have a time conflict with the scheduled "listening session".

I looked for the MUS Board of Regents building naming policies and they seem a bit vague. This is the most relevant section that I found:

" Naming a property or a program based on a charitable gift to the campus must reflect the economic value of the gift. With respect to existing programs, the gift must be commensurate to the size, nature, and prominence of the program. With respect to existing buildings, the gift must be commensurate to the renovation or replacement cost. With respect to the naming of newly constructed property, the gift should provide an appropriate amount of the total value of the planning and construction costs." Not clear what an "appropriate amount" would be, but \$50M seems rather appropriate to me.

There is also a section that speaks to the naming not be for anyone working for the State of Montana. The Gianforte situation here is also not so clear, as I understand that the donation was pledged from the "Gianforte Family Foundation" in 2016, which is not strictly from our current Governor and pledged long before he was elected Governor. Furthermore, this policy seems subject to an "exemption" for large donations, which in the current instance would seem applicable.

Greg Gianforte has been a major leader and contributor to development of the technology sector in Montana, which generates increasing numbers of good jobs and tax income which supports the University and the larger community. The company he founded in Bozeman has utilized computer science for its basic technology and has led the way in technological development of applied computer science in Montana.

Edward Dratz, PhD
Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry
Montana State University, Bozeman

Subject: Giantforte hall

Date: Monday, April 25, 2022 at 6:24:49 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Amelia Gabel

To: MSU News

Please don't name the new hall after Giantforte. He is a terrible human and is completely corrupt.

Thank you,
Amy Emerling

Subject: Gianforte hall name

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 9:45:32 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Terry Falk

To: MSU News

What a great idea! Yes please name the computing building after Mr Gianforte. Gianforte Hall sounds good!

Terry Falk
406-270-1308
NMLS 120326

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 9:01:56 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rod Kent

To: MSU News

I would like to lend my support to the naming of Gianforte Hall, which I think is a fantastic idea. The generosity that the Gianforte Family Foundation has shown to Montana State University will have a positive impact on future generations of Montanans. As a show of appreciation, naming the hall in honor of the Gianforte Family is very appropriate and well deserved.

Regards,
Rod Kent, P.E.
Civil Engineering
Class of '89

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 8:58:50 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Joseph Cline

To: MSU News

As an alumnus of MSU - Bozeman, it's my opinion that an official elected by the majority of Montanans certainly reflects the values and beliefs of Montanans. As such, it makes sense that choosing deliberately to not name a hall after someone whom donated much more money to MSU than many others who have halls named after them would appear to be more than a show of bias on the part of the school. I can understand however that current policy can make an argument in either direction, for and against, the decision. It may be wise to remember that perception could affect future donations, attendance, local support to the school. Certainly, I would find it rather inappropriate to not acknowledge the donation by Gianforte, whether you agree with his/his incumbents' politics or not. Furthermore, a small group of faculty and students certainly do not speak for everyone. I find it likely that a larger group of people, employed/enrolled with MSU or not, are too uncomfortable with the idea of being the recipient of an ideological mob to speak up as loudly as their opposition. As such, I would like to make clear my opinion that any new hall being built with funds from an organization/person should certainly reflect that donation appropriately. Otherwise, it should be the stance of the school to simply not accept that donation until either an appropriate time has passed, or simply to not accept it at all. MSU has made clear its stance on how aforementioned acknowledgement has historically been executed, the naming of the hall after that organization/person. Let's not be inconsistent.

Let's remember the definition of bigotry: **obstinate or unreasonable attachment to a belief, opinion, or faction; in particular, prejudice against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular group.**

Have a pleasant day, well wishes to all. Be kind to one another: that means no prejudice or bigotry, even to those you may disagree with. I would think and hope that the golden rule is still easy to remember, certainly something all young people should have instilled into their character. Bigotry and prejudice should not be encouraged, and treating others differently based upon a disagreement of beliefs or values is a sort of behavior that I hope is not encouraged. Kindness should beget kindness, and it is quite kind to donate to the education of young peoples in their pursuit of higher learning and the betterment of society through education. Let's continue to make MSU - Bozeman an excellent and tolerant place of learning for future generations!

As an aside, you may consider having the Bozeman Daily Chronicle fix the email address attached to the article: https://www.bozemandailychronicle.com/news/montana_state_university/montana-state-university-seeks-input-on-proposed-building-name-gianforte-hall/article_b995de4a-727c-5db3-b4a1-7c11b90a7562.html

It is listed as: msunews@monana.edu

It should be listed as: msunews@montana.edu

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 7:16:37 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Stefan Fechter

To: MSU News

I support naming the building for Gianforte in recognition of the \$50 million donation to MSU. This is not inconsistent with naming the Jake Jabs College of Business & Entrepreneurship and the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering.

Arthur Stefan Fechter
MSU Class of 1973
S.fechter@comcast.net
Cell: 509-954-8237

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 6:30:25 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Patrick Eibs

To: MSU News

I am wanting to express my support for naming the building Gianforte Hall.

I would ask that you consider that more often than not those in opposition speak the loudest and most frequently. Many will be in support, or not object, to the name Gianforte Hall - but they are likely not the loudest contingent.

Patrick Eibs
MBMX, LLC
8FC, LLC
ROI, LLC/Higher Standard Homes

Your Builder for Life

The Pursuit of Excellence

406-539-1366

Subject: Naming hall-to-be

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 4:40:02 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Jane Scudder

To: MSU News

Dear MSU NEWS:

It would be a big mistake to name a new building after Greg Gianforte. He does not have Montana values. When running for the U. S. House, he body slammed a reporter to the ground and broke his glasses. Then he hopped in a car and sped away.

Also he trapped a wolf and kept it suffering until he got over to Park County to kill it. On top of that he had not followed FWP requirements before killing the wolf.

Please do not name a building after Gianforte. He is not deserving. He's trying to buy his way—just as the mining barons did.

Jane Scudder
Bozeman

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: GIANFORTE HALL NAMING

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 4:30:42 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Larry Minkoff

To: MSU News

We strongly advise you NOT to name the building for GG. The New Jersey transplant has already bought his way into the governorship. And his very conservative views have polluted much of our thinking and dialogue.

Some day, it is our Hope that respect for Immigration, for public Health, for LGBTQ rights will prevail. And Greg's reactionary values will be buried forever. He will be remembered as the guy in fake-rumpled Carharts, carrying a big shotgun and shooting a trapped wolf.

No. No. No.

Respectfully, LM

Subject: New Computing Building

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 4:23:22 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Mark burnham

To: MSU News

PLEASE, PLEASE, do not allow the new Computing Building to bear the name of "Gianforte"! Besides not even being a native Montanan or know and understand what it is to be a Montanan, Gianforte does NOT have the integrity, honesty or values of excellence to have a prominent building of education bear the name. Allowing this to happen would sure to discourage donations and support for all departments at MSU by REAL Montanans who "give" what they can.

He was allowed to buy the Governor's Seat, let's not allow him to set his name in stone at MSU!

Sent from my iPhone....MEB

Subject: Input on proposed hall name

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 4:11:46 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Mark Lehman

To: MSU News

My name is Mark Lehman, MSU graduate 2008. I am in my 13th year as a public school teacher in the Belgrade Middle and High Schools. I was shocked to read in the Bozeman Chronicle today that some are considering naming the new computing building after the Gianforte family. PLEASE DO NOT DO THIS! I agree with the resolution brought forward by the three student senators. Gianforte does not fit within MSU values of "excellence, curiosity, and stewardship." The 2017 assault of a reporter and more recent illegal trapping of a Yellowstone wolf are two examples showing where the values disconnect. The policy states a building may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently employed by the university system or the state of Montana. Making an exception to this policy just because he is a mega millionaire sends the wrong message to our young people that the ultra rich can do whatever they want and still get their name on a building. Please choose one of the other lovely proposed names instead. Bitterroot, Cutthroat and Meadowlark all clearly represent Montana's values. Thank you for your time and consideration. Sincerely, Mark Lehman

Subject: naming proposal for Gianforte donation

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 3:44:17 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Ita Killeen

To: MSU News

Hello!

Thank you for accepting public comments.

I encourage you to avoid naming buildings for individuals who are currently pursuing political careers. Governor Gianforte has been a divisive figure in our state and beyond (proactively opposing a non-discrimination ordinance in the City of Bozeman). He has demonstrated inappropriate behavior (assault of a reporter) in the past and is currently involved in polarizing politics. To name a building IN HIS HONOR would make many MSU students, faculty, and staff uncomfortable, or give the false impression to others that MSU supports his political agenda. That would not be MSU's role, I hope.

If buildings are to be named after political figures in the future, I believe it would be wise to wait until their career is complete and we have a chance to see the entire legacy of the individual and see if it is a name that all can support. It may be that buildings are better named after our mountains, rivers and parks (ie. Yellowstone residence hall).

I am a retired MSU staff, my family includes 3 generations of MSU faculty and 3 generations of MSU students. We are proud of our university.

Thank you!

Ita Killeen MD

(She/Her)

Subject: naming comments

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 3:17:17 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Judy Staigmilller

To: MSU News

Sirs/Madams:

I am a 1971 graduate of Montana State University, and I worked at MSU-Bozeman Libraries for over 30 years.

There are many issues in the state which need attention. The few I think of off the top of my head are the condition of the infrastructure (roads, bridges), cost of housing, access to affordable health care, and environmental issues. Instead of addressing these issues, the elected officials of Montana, with Governor Gianforte leading them, jumped on a nation-wide partisan bandwagon of being mean to minority people. This was their focus. It seems to be part of a Victorian-age-style unhealthy obsession with sex.

When the nation and the state were faced with the unknown challenges of the coronavirus, the governor could have set an example and led the way in practicing and encouraging best-known practices. Instead he belittled the danger and encouraged those who are easily led astray to disregard scientific practices for safety and health that would benefit themselves and others.

The Governor has considered himself above the law a few times. Do we reward this behavior by naming something after him? Is this what we want to encourage in MSU students and other future citizens who will carry on after we are gone?

I often send emails to people in elected positions. I realize that it is probably standard practice for a staffer to read the emails, keep track of the gist, and respond with a standard answer. I understand that the time constraints on elected officials is why they use boiler-plate answers. However, Governor Gianforte is the only elected official I have corresponded with who has consistently sidestepped the question or comment I have made in order to make a point. This is further evidence of his lack of integrity.

When someone chooses to run for elected office, he or she signs on to interact with the press. I heard the you-tube interchange between

Gianforte and the Guardian reporter, and there was nothing disrespectful about the reporter's questions. Gianforte's paltry sum to the journalism organization as reparations is the equivalent of my finding loose change in my wallet, pants pockets, and couch, and giving it to someone I injured.

All of these behaviors are wrapped in a self-congratulatory cloak of Christianity which I find to be the height of hypocrisy.

I don't think anything, ever, should be named after Greg Gianforte.

Thank you for taking comments.

Judy Staigmiller

Bozeman, MT

Subject: Building Naming

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 1:48:21 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: halstanley@me.com

To: MSU News

Dear Sir or Madam,

I'm writing in response to the proposed naming of a building after the current Governor.

It is my opinion that public buildings should not be named after "famous people"! Only long after death should a really important and famous person, no matter the size of their donations, have this honor. After a period of history, probably at least a century will a "great" person have stood the test of time and history. Certainly there are Montanas such as Jeanette Rankin or Mike Mansfield that merit such honor, but naming your new building Bitterroot Hall is much more appropriate than letting someone buy having their name memorialized in history.

Hal Stanley

Subject: Building naming

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 1:00:47 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Nan

To: MSU News

To Whom It May Concern:

I am against naming a building at MSU, or any other MT institution of higher learning, by the donors name. I realize that money is on the line, but the constant changing of building names takes away from the history of the University.

Naming anything using a politicians name is a very slippery slope, no matter how much money they donate!

Did Gianforte even attend MSU? NO

Please do not allow his name to associated with MSU, or any other politician for that matter.

Sincerely,

Nan Brandenbergerpayne

128 Erik Drive

Bozeman, MT 59715

Subject: Naming building

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 12:54:59 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Robert Black

To: MSU News

Unless the \$50 million donation is contingent upon naming the building after Gianforte, the committee should consider the ramifications of naming a university building after someone who does not believe in science. 150 years ago it would be like naming a university building after a slave holder. Is there no C. M. Russell building on campus? Jeanette Rankin?

Thanks,
Robert R. Black

Sent from my iPhone

Subject: Concern for Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 11:58:26 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Donita Fatland

To: MSU News

As an MSU alum, I am appalled and disappointed to hear it is even being considered an option to name a building after the racist, xenophobic, sexist, criminal, Gianforte.

He is an embarrassment to Montana; not only is he publicly known for assault and battery on a news reporter *in Bozeman*, he also stands for everything that will halt the progression of our state and country. Throughout the pandemic, he has withheld funding to local health departments to assist in COVID-19 response, instead requiring local taxpayers to foot the bill. He refuses to cross the aisle on important legislature that will further the environmental protections our state desperately needs. He openly and admittedly murders protected wildlife and supports the removal of wolves, bears, and other species from endangered lists. The list goes on endlessly. Gianforte will be a scar on our state's history. Please do not let him also be a scar and *mistake* forever adorning the best University in Montana, as well.

I support the alternative options of Bitterroot, Meadowlark, etc. If a name plaque honoring Gianforte must be displayed, I sincerely hope it is with no pomp and circumstance.

Do not disappoint your community.

With respect,
Donita Fatland

Subject: Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 11:56:40 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Linda Lien

To: MSU News

Yes, as an alum of MSU (Nursing, 1980), I fully in favor of naming the new building Gianforte Hall.
Thank you,
Linda Lien

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

Subject: Proposed Gianforte Building

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 11:43:31 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Holly Kaleczyc

To: MSU News

I completely agree with Kayle Jackson who wrote:

In Bozeman, Gianforte assaulted a reporter.

In Bozeman, Gianforte lobbied against a local ordinance to ban employment discrimination against gay folk.

His "charities" gave huge amounts to radical groups.

He trapped and illegally killed a collared (#1155) Yellowstone Park wolf, just out of the Park.

He's being sued for disregarding the law that enforces rules against polluting the Gallatin River.

He sued Montana to block traditional public access to the Gallatin River.

He has withdrawn Montana from the Multi-State Climate Coalition.

He illegally killed elk in 2000.

And of course, as a creationist, presumably disagrees with MSU's research and teaching of evolution; note his museum which might best be described as the diametrically opposed alternative to the Museum of the Rockies.

Also of interest to higher education students: He favored and signed legislation ending same-day voting registration and specifically getting rid of student ID's to show eligibility to register to vote. So, the Regents are now considering naming a building after him, granting an exception to its rule that buildings can't be named after elected officials until one year after their term ends.

I don't care how rich he is or how much he gives the University. As an alumnus of MSU, I will lose all respect for the University System — and never vote again for the Montana Higher Education levy — if this travesty occurs.

Kayle Jackson
Bozeman

Sent from my iPad

Subject: Naming of MSU Computer Building

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 10:37:07 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: ddoug129@yahoo.com

To: MSU News

Gianforte and the MT State legislature passed something like 17 bills targeting the LGBTQ community. Gianforte has declared war on gay/lesbian/ and transgender MT citizens. I think the Gianforte Family Foundation has given money to The Family Research Council which has been categorized as a hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center for its vehement anti-gay advocacy. Gianforte has an agenda. He is giving money to MSU to further his extremist far-right Christian views. In addition to putting his name on buildings like all rich people do for their own vanity.

It is so wrong to name a computer center after this hateful man. It is bad enough that MSU has decided to name the computer school after him. He fosters fear of others not like us, discrimination and division in our state and in our society.

People like Gianforte try to marginalize and foment hate against LGBTQ youth. And they do it in the name of their fundamentalist religion. Their motive is to spread their hate and their religion.

Gianforte and the far right groups in our country are driving kids to depression and even suicide with their determination to enact these laws. To them LGBTQ kids are making a choice to be who they are, are conducting sinful acts and are evil.

We all know he will probably rescind the money if the building is not named for him. He did it to Stevens Institute in New Jersey. But it would be a wrong thing to name this building after him. There is no way he will give you the 20 million unless his name is on the side. He will not stand for a beautiful name like Meadowlark Hall. We know that. He gets his way. Billionaires almost always do. If someone frustrates him he'll just push them to the ground. Can you all summon the courage and integrity to stand up to this bully? A bully who seems to take enjoyment in hurting transgender young people?

Please put yourselves in the shoes of an 18 year old gay person. They look at MSU giving adulation of Gianforte and what should they think? That MSU is on Gianforte's side in his war against LGBTQ people.

Last week a teacher in Texas was fired by the local school board for having rainbow stickers in his classroom. That is where we are.

Gianforte and others like him have declared open season on gay youth and they won't stop until gay kids are completely disowned and completely destroyed.

Please do not name this building Gianforte. By doing so you will ruin MSU. You will be putting a stain on the university that will last forever.

Please do not let hate win. Thank you.

Respectfully,
Douglas Dietsch
Parent of 3 MSU Graduates

Subject: Naming comments

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 10:13:21 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: SYLVIE KERN

To: MSU News

I strongly oppose naming the computing building Gianforte Hall. It is inappropriate to name a building after a sitting government official. Mr. Gianforte is also a divisive figure.

Sylvie Kern

Subject: Naming Comment

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 10:11:35 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Faye Boom

To: MSU News

While Gianforte's donation is welcome and appreciated, I do not think the building should be named for him. For one thing, it is against university policy to name a building after a state official and would require an "exception" to the policy. For another, without questioning motives, it could appear to be self-serving while he is still in office and likely to run again. While it may be intended to honor the Gianforte foundation, which would include his wife, common perception would center only on him. Also, there is already a computing school named after him. To also name a building after him gives the impression that the University is owned, directed, or influenced by him. Maybe you could give him an honorary degree of some sort instead.

Subject: Naming comments

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 10:09:29 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: McNicholas

To: MSU News

I think it's ridiculous that every time wealthy people donate money to MSU to build a building, it gets named after them. True gifts are given from the heart and don't require sanctimonious acknowledgement for the ages. You're turning our campus into billboards for the rich. A shameful display of what really matters to our university...money and power.

Subject: Building Naming Rights

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 10:06:47 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rick DeVore

To: MSU News

Good morning,

Thank you for the opportunity to address the issue of naming a new building on the MSU-Bozeman campus built partially by a gift from the Gianforte Foundation.

I am adamantly opposed to naming any building built on any public college campus for a donation from a Foundation or a public entity.

A donation is a gift. Funds from these large foundations are placed under the foundation tax code to allow the donor to claim very large deductions to escape income taxes. It is fortunate our colleges and others groups benefit from the generosity provided by these foundations, but in return, the foundations shouldn't expect to have a building named after them. A simple, tastefully constructed plaque with the acknowledgement of the gift at entrances to the building would be sufficient.

In addition, we should not be offering naming rights in exchange for a donation, if those conversations take place.

Summary - My vote is a NO.

Thank you.

Rick DeVore
B.S. - Civil Engineering
Class of 1972
2614 Park Ridge Lane North
Billings, MT 59106

Subject: Naming comments

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 9:43:52 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: jonjohnson07

To: MSU News

My husband and I both graduated with undergraduate and graduate degrees from MSU(education and engineering 1972, 1976, 1990).

My husband also played basketball at MSU in 1967-68. I taught in the Bozeman Schools from 1972- 2018. My husband owned a business in Bozeman. We both agree with the students that Gianforte does not fit with MSU values of excellence, integrity, inclusion, collaboration, curiosity, and stewardship. We are offended by his abuse of animals in his hunting history, his inability to follow FWP policies, his treatment of the press, and his use of his financial success to gain popularity.

Karen and Jon Johnson

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

Subject: Fwd: Proposed building name

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 9:38:04 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Linda Fineman

To: MSU News

Resending due to typo in the published link.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Linda Fineman <lfinemandvm@gmail.com>

Date: April 24, 2022 at 9:04:21 AM MDT

To: msunews@monana.edu

Subject: Proposed building name

Hi,

I am deeply opposed to naming an MSU building after Gianforte. He may have donated money that is meaningful to the university, but has systematically undermined animal welfare, wildlife wellbeing, and human rights for women and from a DEI perspective. His personal physical act of violence on a reporter is reprehensible. His behavior is not something we should directly or indirectly condone for young people.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my perspective.

Linda Fineman DVM, DACVIM (oncology)

Subject: Naming Comment - Vote No on Gianforte Name

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 9:13:02 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Linda Thompson

To: MSU News

Dear MSU,

Thank you for reaching out to the community to gather input on the proposed naming of a new computing building Gianforte Hall.

I realize that Mr. Gianforte is a very wealthy, powerful man. His generosity to MSU is well-recognized, especially during an election year. However, he is also a liar and resorts to physical violence when pushed. I can't forget that he and his campaign spokesman wrote and signed a blatantly false statement intended for law enforcement after his assault of the Guardian reporter Ben Jacobs in May 2017. Thank goodness, Fox reporters, audio recordings and a police report proved beyond a reasonable doubt that he lied.

I understand that as the state's financial support of higher education wanes, universities must rely on outside sources. But please acknowledge the stain associated with his name and ask if that's really what we want for MSU. For survivors of assault, entry into a building bearing this man's name continues the trauma.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my comments.

Best Regards,

Linda Schrage Thompson, '84 MSU ChE

President's Circle

Subject: Naming new building

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 9:06:46 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Susan Penner

To: MSU News

I believe the Board of Regents should stick to its policy of not naming a building after someone employed by the university system or the State of Montana until they leave office. Naming buildings after the uber-wealthy in public office provides an undue advantage in future elections, an advantage not available to those who cannot afford to donate millions but still seek to represent the people.

Following this policy does not preclude the Board of Regents from changing the building name once Mr. Gianforte is done running for office, or as used to be the norm, after he has passed away.

Susan Penner
Bozeman

Subject: Gianforte Computer Bldg name

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 8:59:44 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Jody May

To: MSU News

Hi.. First of all, your e-mail address listed in the Chronicle's Sunday article is wrong, i.e. Monana vs Montana. To get to the point, I am VERY opposed to naming a campus building after Greg Gianforte, regardless of the money he has given to MSU. He doesn't embody any of the ideals I associate with an institution of higher learning. I don't think I need to get into specifics of his uncompromising far right politics. Shooting trapped or treed animals is abhorrent to me, yet Greg did just that. Supporting unscientific approaches to the Covid epidemic was a stain on his administration. His support of a museum which upholds the belief that humans and dinosaurs existed at the same time is indicative of an unscientific mindset. I could go on and on, but won't waste your or my time. Suffice to say if MSU honors this man with his name on a campus building, then MSU is putting money over the ideals associated with higher education. Thank you,

Jody B May

4690 Sourdough Rd
Bozeman, Mt. 59715

Sent from my iPad

Subject: proposed naming of new building

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 8:55:39 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Kathleen Ralph

To: MSU News

I am writing to urge MSU **NOT** to consider naming the new building after a major donor, the Gianforte Foundation. This is not a good idea. Gianforte has already marred the name of the School of Computing and naming the building after the family would be unfortunate.

Money should not be able to buy everything. Character and good works should be considered in naming buildings, not money.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Ralph
220 N 4th St.
Columbus, MT 59019

Subject: Naming a new building after Gianforte

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 8:34:21 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Dick Dorworth

To: MSU News

Greg Gianforte is an embarrassment and threat to Democracy, equality, decency, the Earth's environment and the on going struggle of America to live up to its pledge that all men are created equal. MSU should not sell its soul to the highest bidder by naming a new building after the Gianforte family.

Sincerely,

Dick Dorworth

Bozeman

p.s. The Bozeman Chronicle left the t in Montana out of the e mail address which, of course, won't work. This is my 2nd attempt to communicate.

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows

Subject: more gianforte

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 8:30:37 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: kengilbertson@bresnan.net

To: MSU News

I am tired of MSU taking money from the Gianforte foundation. If you are willing to become a religious school then fine, keep taking the money and naming buildings after him. Afterall he is not giving that money without expecting something in return. But don't expect to keep getting taxpayer dollars, Montana taxpayers deserve better. We want an independent and public education. As an alum of MSU-B and MSU I am strongly opposed to taking any more of their money and especially naming buildings after him, there are more deserving people from Montana that should have names on buildings.

Thank you,

Ken Gilbertson

Subject: Fwd: Naming building Gianforte Hall

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 7:42:50 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Grendel Burrell

To: MSU News

NO, no, no, no, no...

Name the building for what it is....Computing Center...or Computing Hub....or Computer Science Hub or Center...

It's time to stop naming buildings for people. Focus on the use case.

--

Grendel Burrell
415.730.5448
grendel.burrell@gmail.com

--

Grendel Burrell
415.730.5448
grendel.burrell@gmail.com

Subject: public comment - naming of new computing building
Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 7:31:10 AM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Beth Madden
To: MSU News

Dear MSU:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the naming of our new computing building. I am opposed to naming it after the Gianforte family. It was not appropriate, in my opinion, for now Governor Gianforte to make that initial \$6 million donation during his gubernatorial campaign. Talk about buying votes!

I am a bird biologist, and many, many of our birds were originally named after mostly white men - with little meaning to those names today. Recently the American Ornithological Society has launched a campaign to give all the birds with eponymous names more meaningful names. This is refreshing.

I hope that the Gianforte family did not donate the money for the building in order to have it named after them, but in order for MSU to have a wonderful, advanced computing building, with a meaningful name.

Thank you for considering my comments.
Elizabeth Madden
408 Overbrook Drive
Bozeman, MT 59715

Subject: I vote YES

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 6:35:14 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Walt Woolbaugh

To: MSU News

I would vote yes to name the new building Gianforte Hall. In these tough economic times, if someone is willing to pay for a building, assuming all else is OK, I would say vote to name the building.
Thanks For asking.

Walt Woolbaugh
610 E. Manhattan
Manhattan, MT

Subject: NO - Gianforte Hall.

Date: Sunday, April 24, 2022 at 6:34:46 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Rolf Johnson

To: MSU News

Greetings,

I am an MSU alumni (1986) and native Montanan that makes my home in Cascade County and I say NO - Gianforte Hall.

Gianforte is an out of state poster boy for have vs have not, racial, religious & political divisiveness.

I am absolutely opposed to this type of corporate boot licking.

Sincerely,

Rolf Johnson

(Film & TV 1986)

<https://www.imdb.com/name/nm0426129/>

Subject: Proposed Gianforte Hall - NO

Date: Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 11:23:57 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Donna Birkholz

To: MSU News

I believe that MSU should not name a hall after the Gianforte family, regardless of the amount of money donated by the family to MSU; not while Governor Gianforte holds political office. It smacks too much of political shenanigans and corruption.

I am reminded of late President Michael Malone - would one of Montana's preeminent historians support such a move? I believe that even with his experience at MSU's president, Dr. Malone would have been opposed to naming a hall after a politician currently holding elected office. Montana had such challenges with political corruption in its early history, due to the Copper Kings - surely Montana State University should be sensitive to that history. If Governor Gianforte truly donated the money as an investment in MSU's future, then he won't want his name on a building anyway, recognizing the importance of MSU maintaining an unbiased stance on what could be seen as a political situation.

If the hall should be named for a person, there are other politicians in Montana history who could be recognized (Jeanette Rankin, or Mike Mansfield, for instance). The student proposal that the hall be named for something symbolic of Montana - Meadowlark Hall, or etc. - is compelling, as well.

It took MSU over a decade to name what were once the "New Buildings" (res hall buildings behind North Hedges, now known as the Headwaters Complex). There is no need to hurry to name this new building after a person currently holding political office.

Donna (Schnur) Birkholz
MSU residence hall director, 1998-2001

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 8:00:32 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: dave frasr

To: MSU News

Gianforte donation

msunews@montana.edu

Univ Communications, c/o Naming Comments

Take the money and run.

He is buying a building with his name on it.

As long as he does not influence the thinking of others, of the students.

Fantasy World of Religious Insanity is difficult to avoid.

There is a certain level of **Desperation** among believers:

Because:

Evolution has been proven true.

DNA, genetic knowledge is increasing.

Human genome has been mapped. March 31, 2022.

Times have changed, NO going back.

Desperation, grasping at the past. The OutDated superstition of God.

Rag headed men in caves invented God. Amen.

Jews invented Jesus. Amen.

Man Created God. Amen. Amen. Amen.

Catholics are the largest child sex abuse ring in history.

Vatican City State is a Fascist city State.

Take the money and run away from the Insanity of Gianforte.

note:

Born and raised in Montana, 3rd generation, both sets of grandparents homesteaded in Montana.

Once a student at MSU.

Dave Frasier

1357 E Kite St

Eagle Idaho 83616

2089912380

dafrasier@gmail.com

mcg-truth.blogspot.com

bishop-accountability.org

retelabuso.org

--

Sincerely;

Dave Frasier

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Saturday, April 23, 2022 at 2:07:23 PM Mountain Daylight Time

From: OJ Kober

To: MSU News

Dear Naming committee,

As much as I am firmly against Governor Gianforte's political agenda and am deeply concerned that it is ruining Montana's culture and way of life, I appreciate his generosity to Montana State University and the forward thinking on the needed talent in computer science. I think the question in front of the committee is; do we really need a permanent reminder on Montana State's campus of a very polar and unpopular public figure? If Gianforte was no longer in politics, I would feel better about his name on a building. However, I think this would be used to bolster his approval rating in the next election (should he run) and I believe the University should stay out of the election and avoid being perceived as a pawn because of this contribution.

Sincerely,

Jane Kober

Subject: Input to proposed School of Computing Name

Date: Friday, April 22, 2022 at 10:23:48 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: bwuertz1@comcast.net

To: MSU News

This Email is in reference to the naming of the new (to be built) School of Computing building funded by The Gianforte Family Foundation on MSU's campus.

Through the lens of time there have been several notable influential figures in Bozeman and Gallatin Valley's history including Nelson and Ellen Story, Jim Bridger, John Bozeman, William Beall, Daniel Rouse, Lester Wilson and many others.

Similarly, Greg Gianforte has had a large and lasting influence on the success and growth of this wonderful town, valley and state we call home. Greg created a business he chose to headquarter in Bozeman providing high paying jobs for over 500 people locally, he invested significant funding into several classrooms and buildings on the MSU campus including Norm Asbjornson Hall and Romney Gym, served as a Montana US Congressman, and is now serving as Montana's Governor. It is only appropriate that the new building be named Gianforte Hall. Greg and Susan's generosity and hard work dedicated to Bozeman, MSU and the people of the State of Montana should be prominent and remembered as a modern day emulation of the great leadership and works of those that came before us.

Bill & Brenda Wuertz
2484 Boylan Rd
Bozeman, MT 59715

Subject: Objection to proposal to name building at MSU Gianforte Hall
Date: Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 5:32:47 PM Mountain Daylight Time
From: Fuglevand, Andrew J - (fuglevan)
To: MSU News

Dear MSU and the Montana Board of Regents,

As a proud alum and Montana native, I strongly urge the Montana Board of Regents to reject the naming of a building at MSU as Gianforte Hall. This clearly violates the Montana University System own policy on naming facilities for elected officials (i.e., Governor Greg Gianforte):

"Property and programs requiring Board approval may not be named or dedicated in honor of a person currently employed by the MUS or the State of Montana including but not limited to statewide or federal elected or appointed officials and candidates for elected statewide or federal office who have announced or filed for office."

Please demonstrate the integrity of the Montana University System by adhering to principles commensurate with a respected institution like Montana State University.

Sincerely,

Andrew J Fuglevand, PhD
Professor of Physiology & Neuroscience
College of Medicine
University of Arizona
PO Box 245051
Tucson, AZ 85724
fuglevan@email.arizona.edu
1-520-621-6983
<https://fuglevandlab.org/>

Subject: Naming Comments

Date: Friday, April 15, 2022 at 9:25:55 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: K Hanson

To: MSU News

I'm writing in support of naming Gianforte Hall, after MSU receives \$50 Million from the Gianforte Family Foundation. This isn't political at all for me; this is about educating future students, fellow Montanans and tomorrow's leaders in computer-related fields, as well as collaborations with the arts, and providing space and growing opportunities for dual enrollment for high school students, whom should be so lucky to expose them to Montana State. Technology studies and access to higher education in this area are clearly needed as computer systems and technologies continue to trend upward in professional and personal settings.

I also see this similarly to Jabs Hall or Norm Asbjornson Hall, so consistency should prevail at MSU.

-Kerry Hanson, MSU Class of 1993 (BS) and 2008 (MEd)

Subject: Gianforte Hall naming

Date: Thursday, April 14, 2022 at 8:46:20 AM Mountain Daylight Time

From: Jones, Clain

To: MSU News

I'm opposed to naming any building for a MT governor who is up for re election whether Democrat or Republican because of the appearance that MSU and MUS will be advocating for one candidate, who can donate a large sum of money to the university and is currently the Governor, over another, who likely cannot donate large sums of money. After the campaign is over, I would be supportive of the name change.

Clain

Clain Jones

MSU Extension Soil Fertility Specialist & LRES Professor of Nutrient Management

P.O. Box 173120

Rm 334 Leon Johnson Hall

Montana State University

Bozeman, MT 59717-3120

clainj@montana.edu

406 994-6076

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark Ramseth <mrr13400@icloud.com>

Sent: Friday, April 29, 2022 2:46 PM

To: MUSinfo <MUSinfo@montana.edu>

Subject: Building Identification, MSU

Montana University System

Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education.

To: Board of Regents

I was heartened yesterday to discern that there was a dominant number of students that responded in opposition to the naming of a building on campus under the names of Greg and Susan Gianforte. Where else of importance might the voice of truth and future be heard?

As a resident of Montana, and Bozeman, I, too, oppose, the Gianforte naming.

The public and negative disposition of Governor Gianforte's action and behavior over recent years is staggering.

—efforts to close the public waterway that passes adjacent to his property —a public account of the kill of a mountain lion chased by dogs up a tree in the Paradise Valley —a public demonstration of arrogant and violent behavior leading up to the election for governor —downgrading of identified communities in Bozeman and on the University campus, especially LGBTQ persons with a conservative religious bias —the violation of 'Sunshine Laws' in the oversight of Montana State politics.

My expectation may rest with my own sense of a life lived with integrity and truthfulness. It is my sense that such is not the case for a Greg Gianforte.

I oppose.

Sincerely,

Mark R Ramseth, DMin

Bozeman

Sent from my iPhone

From: trey1gowdy@charter.net
To: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
Subject: NO TO Gianforte
Date: Monday, May 2, 2022 11:30:50 AM
Attachments: [attachment1.png](#)
[attachment4.png](#)
[attachment3.png](#)
[attachment2.png](#)

Board Of Regents
Montana State University

It will be interesting to note the true number of thumbs down opinions on the politically motivated survey on " The Gianforte Hall." It's a bias move no matter the party line. But, I find it interesting you don't mention any other candidates other than the one whose family salved your palms with a \$50 million grease job. So, guess that rules out any conflict of interest issues. I am a registered republican and am still opposed to anything being named after a politician whose family just happened to donate \$50 M to the cause.

I'm sure their motivation was pure as the driven snow, with no conflict intended. If the powers that be at MSU really think the people are too brain dead to see through this sham and note the conflict of interest by the Gianforte family, with the papal blessing of the university, they share the full working potential of a screen door in a submarine. Not only is the timing of the donation suspect, but if my hooked on phonics is still serving me, it appears the foundation donated \$8 M in 2016 establishing "The Gianforte School Of Computing." Don't recall hearing about that one, but it would have been a piece of cake to slip through unnoticed, since it was a huge election year. How many more buildings does Gianforte's ego still require salving? Just for the record HANDS OFF renaming the state of Montana, Gianforte Land.

Marilyn Boese

Billings, Mt.

Dear Montana State University Naming Committee:

Thank you for allowing the opportunity for public comment on the proposed building name "Gianforte Hall."

I would ask you to consider what message the University would like to send to its students about the kinds of people we celebrate and honor. There are many who consider Governor Gianforte to be a rather poor example of how adults should comport themselves and it seems that naming a building after him condones his behavior.

We do not grow from children into adults in a vacuum. Our vision of what it means to be an adult is shaped every day by the people whom society and venerated institutions like Montana State University celebrate and honor. While I personally disagree with his politics, I don't think Governor Gianforte is a terrible person. But I do believe that if you wouldn't want your own children to grow and assault people who anger them, you probably shouldn't be naming a building after anyone who is known for doing just that.

The fact that he is currently serving in an elected public office further complicates this. Montana State University is not a political institution and should not be aligning itself with anyone currently serving in a political office. It's just poor form.

Finally I would point out that, traditionally, etiquette dictates that buildings not be named after living people (nor controversial figures, for that matter). That MSU is considering naming a building after a person who is living (and controversial) makes the University seem rather backwards.

Thank for your consideration,

Claire Battaglia

April 29, 2022

To: Montana Board of Regents
Re: Naming of new building on MSU-Bozeman campus

My name is Steve White, and I am respectfully providing this unsolicited letter of support for the necessary rule exemption for naming a new MSU campus building after the Gianforte family.

Brief Bio:

I am a MSU-Bozeman Graduate: 1974 BS Earth Science / Computer Science
My wife, son, daughter-in-law, nephew, niece, cousins are also MSU alumni
I am the principle contact for a School of Architecture Shirlie White annual scholarship (\$1000) in my mother's memory.
I served as a Gallatin County Commissioner 2007-2018
Presently I serve on the Advisory Council for Gallatin College

Testimony:

I have studied MUS Policy 1004.1 'Naming of Buildings', and am aware of the present restrictions on naming buildings for honoring a person who is currently employed by the State of Montana. But, I also recognize the listed exceptions. I believe that II.E.2 applies in the case: 'The philanthropic giving warrants some form of recognition'.

It is not often that a non-alumni would be a strong financial supporter of a local university. Greg Gianforte moved to Bozeman after business success in other states. He could have easily retired and enjoyed our area, as many others do. But soon after settling here, he and his wife decided to start another venture in the 1990's. This new company required investment and risk. Ultimately Right Now Technology became a world leader in its industry and created hundreds of high paying jobs in our area.

While growing his company, I remember how hard Mr. Gianforte worked to encourage MSU graduates to return to Bozeman to work for his growing company. I remember him speaking at MSU events encouraging the growth of the computer science program for the benefit of new students considering this university.

As their business grew, so did the value of their products. Ultimately they were acquired by a worldwide company. And so afterward, my memory is that they created a Foundation to benefit others across Montana.

Through their Foundation, they have been a real asset to many in need. Much of their giving is without fanfare or recognition.

MSU has benefitted greatly from the Gianforte family. This is a very generous gift to our university and aimed squarely at an industry that is of worldwide importance. I am grateful for all of the generosity provided over the last decade by other successful individuals. This donation will add another important component to MSU's campus and offerings.

I strongly encourage the BOR to exercise their authority to accept the Gianforte Family Foundation donation, and ultimately name the new computer science building in their name.

Thank you for allowing public comment and receiving my testimony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve White', with a large, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Steve White
rwhitemt@gmail.com
3800 Blackwood Road
Bozeman, MT 59718

From: [Regent Amy Sexton](#)
To: [Casarova, Jemine](#)
Subject: Fwd: Please Approve the Naming of the Proposed Computer Science Building at MSU "Gianforte Hall"
Date: Sunday, May 15, 2022 2:17:44 PM

Amy Sexton
Student Regent
Montana University System
regentsexton@montana.edu

From: William Sanderson <wcsander409@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, May 12, 2022 8:34:46 PM
To: Regent Amy Sexton <RegentSexton@montana.edu>
Subject: Please Approve the Naming of the Proposed Computer Science Building at MSU "Gianforte Hall"

Dear Regent Sexton:

I am writing to urge you to agree to name the proposed, new computer science building at Montana State University being funded by the Gianforte Family Foundation, "Gianforte Hall".

I am fortunate to be a Montana State University alumnus in Chemical Engineering, a member of the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering Advisory Council and the Secretary/Treasurer of the Montana State University Alumni Foundation Board of Governors. During my years of service to the University, I have witnessed the transformative nature of the many generous gifts the Gianforte family has bestowed on the Montana University System, and the computer science discipline, in particular. The Gianforte family has consistently supported higher education in Montana through their many generous gifts for more than two decades.

The \$50 million Gianforte Family Foundation gift is a transformative gift which would allow the Montana University System to continue to dramatically expand computer science and complimentary interdisciplinary offerings to future generations of Montana students. The proposed construction of the new computer science building would continue to build on the previous gifts of the Gianforte family to the Gianforte School of Computing and other generous gifts to the Montana University System. A transformative gift of this nature would not only expand computer science education, but would provide long term, impactful benefits to the State of Montana in terms of potential business growth and employment for decades to come.

The Montana University System is extremely fortunate to have so many generous donors that are willing to invest in educating future generations of students to the benefit of our great State and Nation. The Montana University System has a long history of naming colleges and buildings after generous benefactors that provide transformative gifts. At Montana State University alone, named gifts have included the Gianforte School of Computing, the Jake Jabs College of Business and Entrepreneurship, Jake Jabs Hall, the Norm Asbjornson College of Engineering, Norm Asbjornson Hall and the Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing.

I urge you to agree to name the proposed, new computer science building "Gianforte Hall" to recognize both the generous and transformative nature of the gift, but also the long history of generous support the Gianforte family has provided to the Montana University System, and through that generosity, expanding higher education in our State, to all Montanans.

Very truly yours,
William Sanderson
Lakeside, Montana

 | [Reply](#) [Forward](#)

Allen and Dixie Schallenberger
53 Elser Lane
Sheridan, MT 59749-9604
May 8, 2022

Montana Board of Regents

To: Casey Lozar (Chair), Loren Baugh, Todd Buchanan, Joyce Dombrowski, Brianne Rogers, Amy Sexton (student regent) and Jeff Southworth:

We are writing about the controversy over naming Gianforte Hall after the Gianforte family gave a \$50 million donation to MSU, Bozeman this winter. In 2016 the Board of Regents voted to rename MSU's Computer Science Dept. "The Gianforte School of Computing" after the family donated 8 million to MSU. Over the years the family has probably donated over 60 million total to MSU, Bozeman. We think all that money is going to greatly help MSU, Montana, and the nation with advances in the computer sciences. It will also attract more research to MSU.

So far all we have seen is a great deal of biased media information on the issue against the Gianforte Family in the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, and other state newspapers. We think you should find a way to name it Gianforte Hall and disregard all the political hot air opposing it. People who do positive things for education in Montana should be recognized.

We are particularly concerned about Dave Parker, Head of Political Science Dept., comments to the listening session and press and to gullible young students with limited life experiences. Perhaps you should take a closer look at Parker's past actions. Also, perhaps it would be good if the regents carefully review the media schools in Montana higher education and their probable very liberal bias in educating reporters.

We are natives of Montana, attended MSC and MSU and graduated from MSU in 1965 with a MS in Fish and Wildlife Management and in 1967 with a B.S. in Microbiology with the Medical Technology option including a one- year internship. We have both worked very hard in Montana at various occupations and are now retired. We have planned to leave a sizable donation to MSU, Bozeman for scholarships. We may have to revoke that if the MSU bias against conservative ideas and people and their very large donations to MSU is supported by the Montana Board of Regents.

Sincerely,



Allen and Dixie Schallenberger

cc: Clayton Christianson, Commissioner of Higher Education

RECEIVED

MAY 12 2022

Montana University System

Hello Chair Lozar, Commissioner Christian, Regents. As you may be aware my name is O'Shay Birdinground i'm currently a student and ASUM senator at the University of Montana. Today in the Budget, Administration and Audit Committee we got to listen about action item D. naming of a proposed building at MSU. In my opinion naming the building after the Governor and his family would do more harm than good. There have been points that have been brought up that this naming would create a more diverse field of computer science majors at MSU. While this is a good perspective to consider, there have been words and actions the governor and his wife have taken and said, certain things that segregate certain groups of people from other groups. Also, there is a board specific policy which prohibits the naming of a building after a state employee, which Gianforte is. Now, there can be arguments made and im assuming that they will be made under Section E, Subsection 2 which is "The philanthropic giving warrants some form of recognition." as an exception to board policy. But no argument can take back the actions of the Governor and his family. With all that being said I would strongly suggest to the Board to heed the word of students and not approve the name of the proposed building. Thank you again chair lozar, commissioner Christian, Regents for your continued and consistent work for Montana Higher Education.

From: [Nicole Ritter](#)
To: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
Subject: concern over Gianforte naming proposal
Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022 4:31:41 PM

Dear Board of Regents members:

As a Bozeman resident, Montana taxpayer, and proud Montana University System graduate, I strongly oppose naming yet another MSU landmark in honor of Governor Greg Gianforte and his family. Doing so would violate the Montana Board of Regents' own policy, not to mention besmirch the reputation of Montana State University as a top research university.

Some other opponents will talk about the conflict of interest inherent in a currently serving politician using his own vast personal wealth to purchase influence in Montana. Others may mention Gianforte's physical assault of a reporter asking a simple question about health insurance. Still more will discuss his family's long-standing religious war against the LGBTQ+ community, or their funding of a school that discriminates against special education students. All of these are important considerations.

However, I would like to address the incongruity of MSU lionizing a family that consistently funds anti-science initiatives, including a "museum" dedicated to discrediting the theory of evolution. This museum promotes the notion that the Earth is 6,000 years old, that humans and dinosaurs walked the planet at the same time, and that dinosaurs were on Noah's Ark.

Gianforte himself rejects evolution and is a climate change skeptic. His scientifically unsupported views on "herd immunity" have contributed to Montana's staggering COVID-19 death toll--3,363 Montanans and counting. And, although he personally has benefited from the protection of vaccines, Gianforte has also financially supported prominent anti-vaccine politicians and policies.

I can't help but wonder what the late vaccinologist Maurice Hilleman, one of MSU's most world-changing graduates, would think of his alma mater contributing to the ongoing process of whitewashing the Gianforte family's extreme views. I hope that the Board of Regents will consider the message being conveyed about MSU as a standout research university--and then reject this proposal.

Sincerely,

Nicole Rosenleaf Ritter
University of Montana '96

Casanovas, Jasmine

From: Peretz, Amber
Sent: Monday, May 16, 2022 11:34 AM
To: Casanovas, Jasmine
Subject: Public Comment Board of Regents

Hello,

Below is my submission of public comment in regard to the agenda item "Notification that MSUB intends to place several programs into moratorium, including its Bachelor of Science in psychiatric rehabilitation...":

Greetings all. My name is Amber Peretz, the Native Community Ambassador at MSUB's Native American Achievement Center (NAAC). I noticed that there is a notification of MSUB's intent to place several of its programs into moratorium, including the Bachelor of Science in psychiatric rehabilitation. The action upon this specific program is of concern to us at the NAAC. As advocates of support for our Native students and the wider Native community, we are concerned due to the high interest that our students have shown for this program. There has been a notable increase in mental health awareness across the nation. It is crucial to maintain a culturally and historically nuanced perspective when it comes to mental health and addiction issues regarding the Native population. Many of our local organizations leverage this specific area of knowledge (and the potential stemming from our Native graduates earning degrees in this field) to create and sustain mental health and addiction services in the community. Many students have goals to take their new skill sets back to their reservation communities to help make positive change. Additionally, this program is also a point of interest in our recruitment efforts when discussing opportunities to prospective Native high school students. More generally, this degree is extremely relevant to the times for any MSUB student and our nation at large. We wanted to raise these concerns so that you may take some of the thoughts into consideration as you discuss the plan to disengage from the Bachelor of Science in psychiatric rehabilitation. Thank you for your time.

Amber Peretz
MSU Billings Native American Achievement Center
AmeriCorps VISTA- Native Community Ambassador
406-657-1672

Main Campus Location: 2630 Normal Ave
City College Location: Tech Building, B008



From: [Mary](#)
To: [Casanovas, Jasmine](#)
Subject: Public Comment re: Naming of Building at MSU
Date: Thursday, May 19, 2022 12:09:24 PM

****External Sender****

It is my understanding that the Gianforte Family Foundation gave the generous donation to MSU. I do not believe the entire Gianforte Family holds a public elected office. Therefore, it is my opinion that the new building should be named after the entire Gianforte Family.

Thank you,

Mary B. Brown
Citizen of Montana

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Why become a teacher?

There are many great reasons to become a teacher! Here are a few to consider:

- You will make a difference!
- You will transform lives!
- You will inspire young people!
- You will have a secure profession that provides lifelong benefits!
- You will do work that matters!
- You can make *everyone* feel like *someone*!

Learn More about the TOPP Program at:
<https://www.msun.edu/academics/coeasn/TOPP.aspx>



MSU-Northern is accredited by Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities (www.nwccu.org) accreditation standards. MSU-Northern does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, or disability.

Get in touch with us!

Havre School District

Julie Monson - monsonj@blueponyk12.com
Mandy Nitz - nitzm@blueponyk12.com
Brad Moore - mooreb@blueponyk12.com

Great Falls School District

Beckie Frisbee - beckie_frisbee@gfps.k12.mt.us
Heather Hoyer - heather_hoyer@gfps.k12.mt.us

Great Falls College – MSU

Dr. Leanne Frost - leanne.frost@gfcmsu.edu
Jessica Dykstra - jessica.dykstra@gfcmsu.edu

MSU-Northern

Jennifer Anderson - jennifer.anderson32@msun.edu
Curtis Smeby - smebyc@msun.edu

Rural Montana

Contact your school counselor, principal, or superintendent.

TEACHERS OF PROMISE PATHWAYS



What is Teachers of Promise Pathways (TOPP)?

MSU-Northern's Education Department received a Grow Your Own Educator grant from the Commissioner of Higher Education that supports MSUN's Educator Preparation Program (EPP) to establish a pathway for high-school juniors and seniors to become teachers for Montana's schools.

Teachers of Promise Pathway (TOPP) creates an academic pathway for students to consider teaching as their career path and inspire them to complete their Education degree in their home communities. MSU-Northern is partnering with two-year colleges (Great Falls College-MSU and Fort Peck Community College) in the region to help deliver the TOPP program.

Participating High-Schools



Havre High



Harlem High



Great Falls Public Schools

...And More!

Which TOPP courses will I be taking?

EDU 201 (EDU 200*) - INTRO TO EDUCATION

This course will focus on the history, purpose, role, and scope of education in the U.S.

EDU 225 (EDU 221*) - EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY

This course will focus on educational psychology concepts with an emphasis on learning theories.

PSYX 230 - DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY

This course will provide an overview of what is empirically known about all the periods of life from conception to death of our physical vehicles.

HTH 110 (HTH 201*) - PERSONAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

This course is an introduction to the basic and new concepts of health.

M 130 - MATH FOR ELEMENTARY TEACHERS 1

The topics included in this course are directly related to elementary mathematics education.

**GFC-MSU Course numbers*

Why these courses?

TOPP courses were selected to provide insights into an education career path. The Teachers of Promise Pathway offers financial, academic, and personal support for identified TOPP college and dual-enrollment courses that align with educator preparation in Montana. Students will also engage in work-based experiences that support Education majors. Students will be supported by teacher leaders, professors, and mentors as they complete their dual-enrollment at their high schools and transfer them to their local two-year college and Montana State University-Northern.

Where is the program offered?

Havre & Area: Courses are offered at MSU-Northern and/or Havre High School.

Great Falls & Area: Courses are offered at Great Falls College-MSU and/or Great Falls Public Schools.

Rural HI-Line: Courses will be offered online. Opportunities to connect virtually will be utilized to support the teaching and learning process.

