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## **Recommendation to Change the Name of the School of Music to the Mead Witter School of Music, College of Letters and Science**

The School of Music is a large and complex department that offers undergraduate and graduate degrees, including several nationally accredited professional and performance programs. Additionally, the school offers a variety of courses to non-majors and fields an enviable array of outreach and engagement programs and public events. Indeed, among L&S departments and programs, the School of Music presents one of the most public faces of the university, which we see and hear every time the Marching Band takes the field, and when the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra and the Pro Arte Quartet or any of our other musicians and ensembles perform.

The school has long been engaged in efforts to raise funds for a new building and performance space to support its several missions, and we have made significant strides in securing that funding. In recognition of significant support to be provided by the Mead Witter Foundation, the Music faculty proposes to rename the school the “Mead Witter School of Music.”

At its September 3, 2015 department meeting, the School of Music faculty voted unanimously (40 in favor with no opposed or abstentions) to approve naming the School of Music in a manner that appropriately recognizes the extraordinary generosity of the Mead Witter Foundation. The Foundation’s \$25M gift will allow Phase 1 of the Hamel Music Center building project to proceed as originally planned with both recital and concert halls in place along with the lobby and large rehearsal space. We understand that in accordance with the Chancellor’s decision, this naming of the School of Music will remain in effect for the life of the Hamel Music Center building. The Mead Witter Foundation is a private philanthropic organization located in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Currently led by George W. Mead II, chair, and Susan Feith, vice chair, the Foundation is funded through endowments from family members who were major shareholders in Consolidated Papers, Inc., where Mr. Mead served as company president. Since its beginning in 1951, the Foundation has given over \$65M in charitable support primarily to higher education, local community causes, and to fine and performing arts and other cultural programs. The Mead family has a number of UW-Madison connections, beginning with Mr. Mead’s grandfather who served as a Regent in the 1930s. Many family members, including Mr. Mead’s sister Mary (Business 1956) attended the UW-Madison. His cousin, Sally Mead Hands (L&S 1934) bequeathed \$20M to the English Department, and another cousin, Emily Nissley (L&S 1955) donated \$3M to the Chazen Museum Expansion

Professor Susan Cook, Director, presented and discussed the proposal with the L&S APC, which held an interested and energetic discussion. They noted the relative rarity of “named” schools at UW-Madison, as well as the frequency of such honors bestowed at other institutions, where generous patrons have long sustained performance and artistic endeavors. APC members noted the commitment of the Mead Witter Foundation to the arts and to higher education, and agreed that this would be an appropriate way to honor a generous donor. The L&S APC approved this request (8 for, 0 against, 1 abstention) on September 4, 2015. When circulated to L&S departments and programs, the only comment received enthusiastically reaffirmed the importance of this support and the positive impact new performance and rehearsal spaces will have on the community.

The proposal was subsequently approved by the University Academic Planning Council on December 17, 2015. This action is effective July 1, 2016.