Subject: Building Naming

Action Requested: Authorization to name the Michigan Wrestling Center in honor of Ralph and Dorothy Bahna

Background:

The University of Michigan has received a leadership gift from Ralph (BBA ’64) and Dorothy (BA ’65) Bahna of Stamford, Connecticut in support of the Michigan Wrestling Center. This new 18,000 square foot building houses comprehensive training and support facilities for the wrestling program, including a wrestling room with three practice mats, locker rooms, offices, an athletic medicine room, and strength and conditioning areas. The building is located on the south athletic campus adjacent to the Preston Robert Tisch Tennis Building and the Donald R. Shepherd Gymnastics Center.

Mr. Bahna came to the University of Michigan from East Grand Rapids and was a key contributor to the campus as a student athlete, earning an individual Big Ten Championship in 1964 before advancing to a successful career as a business leader. He attributes much of his success to the lessons learned during his time as a student athlete. As a result of Mr. Bahna’s conviction that Michigan Wrestling made a difference in his life, Mr. and Mrs. Bahna have made a leadership gift of more than two million dollars in support of the Michigan Wrestling Center. In so doing, their gift is now the single largest from a former varsity letter winner to the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. He has also encouraged other alumni wrestlers to support this project.

In recognition of this significant commitment from Mr. and Mrs. Bahna, we recommend that the Board of Regents formally designate the Michigan Wrestling Center as the Bahna Wrestling Center.

Respectfully submitted,

William C. Martin
Donald R. Shepherd Director
of Intercollegiate Athletics

Timothy P. Slottow
Executive Vice President and
Chief Financial Officer

January 2010