The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Item for Action

Subject: Building Name Change

Action Requested: Authorization to change name of 1100 North University Avenue building

Proposed Name: Robben W. and Aldyth L. Fleming Building

With the support of the President's Advisory Committee on Historical and Honorific Naming, I am pleased to recommend that the building currently identified as 1100 North University Avenue be designated the Robben W. and Aldyth L. Fleming Building. Following a review of the naming proposal and historical research, the committee approved this recommendation in recognition of the Flemings' lasting contributions to the University of Michigan.

Robben Fleming served as the University's ninth president from 1968 to 1978 and returned as interim president in 1988. His leadership during a period of significant social and political change was distinguished by his commitment to academic freedom, civil discourse, and institutional excellence. His thoughtful approach to campus unrest, emphasis on dialogue, and dedication to the University's academic mission established a legacy that continues to resonate today.

Aldyth Louise “Sally” Fleming also made meaningful contributions to the University and broader community. Beyond her responsibilities as first lady, she was actively engaged in campus life and civic service. Describing herself as a “professional volunteer,” she supported organizations including the Ann Arbor Community Center, United Way, and the Washtenaw County Adult Literacy Program. During the campus unrest of 1969, she demonstrated compassion by organizing first aid for young people seeking refuge from tear gas. Her appreciation for the arts was also reflected in the establishment of the Sally Fleming Master Classes at the University's School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

In 1980, the Board of Regents honored both Robben and Sally Fleming by naming the former Administration Building in recognition of their service. That building was demolished in 2022 following the relocation of executive offices to the Ruthven Administration Building. Naming the 1100 North University Avenue building in their honor would restore this important recognition.

Originally constructed in 1925, the 1100 North University Avenue building occupies a prominent and historically significant location on Central Campus. The committee believes its designation as the Robben W. and Aldyth L. Fleming Building would appropriately honor their individual and shared contributions while preserving their place in the University's history.

I recommend that the Board of Regents approve changing the name of the 1100 North University Avenue building to the Robben W. and Aldyth L. Fleming Building, effective immediately.

Respectfully submitted:



Domenico Grasso
President

November 2026