THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Trevor Brown, PhD
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost
Office of Academic Affairs

University Square South, 15 E 15th Avenue, Columbus, OH 43201
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November 6, 2026

Dear Colleagues:

Thank you for your thoughtful and thorough analysis of requests to review the naming of university spaces associated with Leslie H. Wexner. Your careful commitment as members of the standing advisory committee remains critical to Ohio State's review procedure.

Following the naming review procedure, you could only consider information provided by the requestors during the initial review and were unable to consider any additional information. Your report clearly and thoroughly summarized the documentation you received and provided a balanced explanation of both the allegations and Mr. Wexner's responses. Your report correctly highlights the guidance that "names of spaces and entities are not and should not be changed lightly," and that the case for removal must be compelling, based on substantial evidence of misconduct or other inappropriate behavior. Like others for whom many of our buildings have been named, the Wexners are prominent community members and generous supporters of the university and its mission. For this reason, the procedure has a high bar for removing a name.

In making my decision, I do not have the same constraints as the committee and may consider the broader context and availability of additional evidence. I have concluded that further review should not proceed at this time for three primary reasons:

- The university's naming review procedure requires "substantial evidence" of misconduct to justify an assessment of gross reputational harm. As your report makes clear, Mr. Wexner has faced allegations of misconduct but has never been charged with or convicted of a crime. Mr. Wexner has denied these allegations, including under oath, and if I were to ask the committee to conduct further review, you would be in the nearly impossible position of searching for substantial evidence of misconduct where law enforcement entities, Congressional committees and international media outlets have not discovered such evidence.

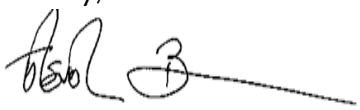
- Relatedly, while I appreciate your willingness to do this work given these considerable challenges, the committee is not and was never intended to become an investigatory body like a law enforcement or auditing organization. It has neither the authority to subpoena witnesses nor access to private records, etc. Fundamentally, the committee

exists to provide faculty, staff and student perspectives on otherwise available information. In this case, substantial evidence is not available.

- The naming review procedure allows for further review should new information become available. If substantive evidence does become publicly available, the university could return the matter to the committee to make an updated recommendation.

Again, thank you for the many hours of service that you committed to this important issue beyond your everyday duties. As public servants, you have demonstrated tremendous diligence and care throughout this process. I and the university are grateful for your work.

Sincerely,



Trevor Brown, PhD
Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Trevor Brown, Interim Executive Vice President and Provost

FROM: Standing Advisory Committee for the Review of University Space and Entity Names

DATE: October 7, 2026

RE: Naming Review Request/Wexner

Introduction

This memorandum provides the initial recommendation from the Standing Advisory Committee for the Review of University Space and Entity Names ("Committee") concerning a series of requests to review the names of university spaces associated with Leslie Wexner. The spaces at issue include The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center, the Wexner Center for the Arts, and the Les Wexner Football Complex.

Pursuant to the Procedure for Reviewing Names of University Spaces and Entities ("Procedure") established by the Board of Trustees ("Board"), any faculty, staff, student, or alumnus may request a review of a University space or entity name based on allegations that the individual or entity at issue engaged in "misconduct or other inappropriate behavior" that is "harmful to Ohio State's reputation for excellence and its values of integrity and inclusiveness." Upon receipt of a proper request, the Committee must first review the materials submitted and make a recommendation to the Executive Vice President and Provost as to whether the request should receive a full review. Importantly, at this stage, the Committee may only consider the requestor-submitted materials, but if a fuller review is approved the Committee may review any evidence it deems appropriate in making a final recommendation to the President as to whether a name change is warranted.

As discussed more fully below, 512 individuals submitted requests from January through September 2026 to change the names of one or more spaces associated with Mr. Wexner based on a range of allegations. Each request was reviewed individually, but the Committee considered the requests collectively for efficiency purposes given the large number of requests and the overlapping claims. While each requestor framed their allegations differently, they cumulatively raised nine unique categories of issues for review: (1) allegations concerning Mr. Wexner's relationship with Jeffrey Epstein, including alleged actions taken to either support or facilitate improper activities by Mr. Epstein and being listed as a potential co-conspirator by the FBI; (2) alleged personal sexual misconduct by Mr. Wexner; (3) alleged coordination with the Epstein Foundation regarding the naming of the Les Wexner Football Complex; (4) alleged abusive employment practices at Mr. Wexner's businesses, including but not limited to alleged sexual harassment and retaliation; (5) alleged improper marketing and manufacturing practices at Mr.

Wexner's businesses; (6) alleged improper behavior by Mr. Wexner during his time on the OSU Board; (7) alleged concerns related to Mr. Wexner's transparency about the Dr. Richard Strauss and Mr. Epstein matters; (8) alleged misconduct related to Mr. Wexner's speech and political activity, including allegations related to lobbying efforts; and (9) various additional alleged forms of misconduct, including alleged misconduct regarding the death of Mr. Wexner's former attorney; alleged "cannibalism, extortion"; allegedly "being involved in the payments of a doctor (still on OSU payroll) who works primarily in women's health care"; allegedly being a "lascivious presence around campus" in the 1970s; and allegedly owning "a plane company which was caught smuggling drugs into Ohio in the 90s." In support of these allegations, requestors submitted approximately 6,000 pages of documentation that the Committee reviewed pursuant to the Procedure.

Following this review and as discussed more fully below, the Committee recommends based solely on the documentation submitted by the requestors that a full review occur into the allegations in categories 1, 2, and 4 (Mr. Wexner's relationship with Mr. Epstein; Mr. Wexner's alleged personal sexual misconduct; and alleged abusive employment practices at Mr. Wexner's businesses), but finds that the remaining allegations do not warrant further review.

Importantly, though, this recommendation is not and should not be viewed as a conclusion on the allegations' merit or lack thereof. Rather, the Committee finds only that the requestors have met the initial threshold for further review in the above-noted categories and believes that a review of potentially relevant records and information beyond what the requestors provided is warranted to enable the Committee to make any recommendations regarding further action.

This memorandum explains the review process as set forth in the Procedure, the requestors' allegations and supporting documentation, and the Committee's analysis and recommendations.

Review process

The Procedure establishes a rigorous review process for requests to remove names from university spaces and entities. Any current university faculty, staff, or student or any alumnus may make a request, but must "provide substantial evidence of misconduct or other inappropriate behavior by the individual or entity at issue and demonstrate that that conduct or behavior is harmful to Ohio State's reputation for excellence and its values of integrity and inclusiveness." Only reasons set forth by requestors will be considered at each stage of the process, and requestors bear the burden of providing full, accurate, and convincing information as to why the name should be removed in submitting their request. Requestors must also provide thorough documentation for their sources and demonstrate that those sources are reliable.

Further, requestors must answer additional questions in support of their requests, specifically:

- Why was the building named after this person? Was the name honorific or in recognition of a philanthropic gift (donation)? If it was honorific, briefly describe the honoree's significant contributions to Ohio State.
- Why is the legacy of the namesake fundamentally at odds with the principles guiding the campus today? That is, explain why the legacy's pernicious effects outweigh the individual's contributions. What substantial evidence is there to support this claim?

- What is the likely impact on members of the university community if the name is retained and/or removed?
- What other relevant information or arguments should be considered?

Once a request is made and the Committee chair determines that it includes all required criteria, it is subject to an up-to-five-step review process:

- **Initial Committee Review.** The Committee reviews the request to determine whether it provides substantial evidence to merit further consideration. The Committee must ultimately issue a recommendation to the Provost as to whether a full review should occur, and if so on what grounds. At this step, the Committee may only rely on evidence submitted by the requestors.
- **Provost Review.** The Provost reviews the recommendation to determine whether and to what extent to advance the request for further review or to deny it such that no further action is taken.
- **Committee Investigation.** If the request is advanced by the Provost, the Committee conducts a thorough review to determine whether the name at issue should be removed, some other action should be taken, or no action should be taken, and issues a recommendation to the President. At this step, the Committee may review any evidence that it deems appropriate, regardless of whether it was provided by the requestors, to provide a more fulsome conclusion as to the appropriateness of a name removal. However, the Committee may only consider the grounds for removal that the requestors identify and that the Provost approves for review.
- **President Review and Decision.** The President reviews the recommendation in consultation with the Provost and other officials as appropriate, and determines whether to remove the name, take another action, or take no action. The President's decision is final, except that the Board must review and approve name removals or modifications.
- **Board Decision.** The Board has the final decisional authority as to whether to remove or modify a name.

Importantly, the Procedure makes clear that "[n]ames of spaces and entities are not and should not be changed lightly," and requestors "must make a compelling case for the name removal or amendment."

Requests regarding Wexner-named spaces

As noted above, from January through September 2026, 512 individuals (including alumni, current employees, and students) made requests regarding Wexner-named spaces, raising nine different categories of claims and offering approximately 6,000 pages of supporting documentation.[1] The Committee reviewed each request individually, but evaluated them collectively for efficiency.

In making requests, requestors must set forth why the university spaces at issue were named and outline the contributions that the individual at issue has made to the university. Here, the requestors collectively noted that Mr. Wexner and his wife, Abigail Wexner, are prolific donors to the

[1] A similar request regarding Mr. Wexner was made in December 2025, but the request neither sufficiently specified alleged acts by Mr. Wexner nor included relevant documentation. That individual was notified of these issues and resubmitted their request in January 2026; the updated request was considered as part of this review.

university, having donated over $200 million cumulatively. Mr. Wexner has also served on the university's Board of Trustees and the Wexner Medical Center Board, including serving as chair in both roles, and Mrs. Wexner has also served on the Board of Trustees. The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center was named for the Wexner family. The Les Wexner Football Complex was named for Mr. Wexner. The Wexner Center for the Arts was named for Mr. Wexner's father, Harry Wexner, following a significant donation to the university from Mr. Leslie Wexner. The requestors noted that these donations have had significantly positive impacts on the university over time, enabling substantial progress and success in academics, athletics, the arts, and health care, and the Wexners' years of service and leadership have meaningfully benefited the university in numerous respects.

While acknowledging the above, the requestors stated that the names of these spaces should be changed for nine categories of reasons outlined above. And though the requestors advanced numerous reasons for why they were seeking name removal, common themes included concerns about: (1) the impact that connections with Mr. Epstein may have on the university's reputation and on faculty, staff, students, alumni, and the community more broadly; (2) the potential for specialized impacts on victims of sexual misconduct and/or chilling effects on individuals reporting such actions; (3) concerns regarding alleged personal sexual, business, or other misconduct and related reputational impacts that may exist if those alleged actions are substantiated; (4) impacts relative to the university's Shared Values and ideals like transparency; (5) impacts to individuals seeking or providing treatment at the Wexner Medical Center; and (6) impacts on individuals' willingness to attend or support the university financially or otherwise.

Documentation review

Because the Procedure requires the Committee to base its recommendation solely on the documentation provided by requestors at this step, this section provides a brief overview of the information in the approximately 6,000 pages of documentation provided. Given this large volume and the fact that certain sources were duplicative (e.g., multiple news articles reporting on the same event), this report does not summarize every document that the Committee reviewed. Instead, it provides a high-level summary of the documents relevant to each category of allegations. And while several requestors provided suggestions for where additional information could be found, like the federal government's "Epstein Files" database, the Committee did not review those sources in accordance with the Procedure's requirements at this stage of the process.

A. Category 1 – Allegations concerning Mr. Wexner's relationship with Mr. Epstein

This category concerns allegations that Mr. Wexner maintained a relationship with Mr. Epstein that allowed Mr. Epstein to engage in criminal activity, took actions to facilitate misconduct by Mr. Epstein (including that Mr. Wexner was identified as a potential co-conspirator by the FBI), and/or was dishonest regarding the specifics of his relationship with Mr. Epstein. This was the most common category of allegations, and requestors raised these claims in various ways. At a high level, though, the documentation addressed several specific points.

First, numerous articles reported details of Mr. Wexner's relationship with Mr. Epstein. These documents show that Mr. Wexner retained Mr. Epstein as his financial advisor from the late 1980s

into the mid-2000s and gave him significant authority in that role, including granting Mr. Epstein power of attorney. See, e.g., a March 2003 Vanity Fair article ("The Talented Mr. Epstein") by Vicky Ward; a February 16, 2026 Forbes article ("Everything We Know about Les Wexner in the Epstein files") by Simone Melvin. Likewise, these articles referenced other connections between the two, such as Mr. Wexner allegedly naming Mr. Epstein to a seat on the board of the Wexner Foundation, making him a trustee of his children's trust, charging him to oversee the construction of a yacht, and more, with one individual noting that Mr. Epstein served as Mr. Wexner's "hatchet man." See id.; see also a July 25, 2019 New York Times article ("How Jeffrey Epstein Used the Billionaire Behind Victoria's Secret for Wealth and Women") by Emily Steel, Seve Eder, Sapna Maheshwari, and Matthew Goldstein. These articles noted that "Mr. Epstein became ubiquitous in Ohio" during their relationship, was "a fixture at Mr. Wexner's parties and an annual fund-raiser for the Wexner Center for the Arts," and was "like a master of ceremonies" for Mr. Wexner's 59th birthday party. See id. The requestors also provided a note from Mr. Wexner to Mr. Epstein dated January 20, 2003 stating "Dear Jeffrey – I wanted to get you what you want … so here it is …" with a hand drawn picture of breasts, and signed "Happy Birthday, Your Friend Leslie."

Various articles reported that Mr. Epstein personally profited from his relationship with Mr. Wexner, making significant amounts of money and also securing ownership of certain properties from Mr. Wexner, including a New York mansion (where Mr. Epstein was later accused of having engaged in criminal activity) at a discounted rate. See the March 2003 Vanity Fair article noted above; an October 20, 2002 New York Post article ("Murky World of Clinton Pal") (referencing that Mr. Epstein was reported to make "at least $75 million a year in fees" and bought Mr. Wexner's New York mansion for "just $1"); the February 16, 2026 Forbes article noted above (suggesting that the claims that Mr. Epstein sold the New York property to himself were not correct, but that Mr. Wexner instead sold it to him for $20 million when it appeared to be valued much higher); an August 8, 2019 Business Insider article ("Inside the Relationship Between Victoria's Secret Head Les Wexner and Convicted Sex Offender Jeffrey Epstein, from 'Close Personal Friends' to Severed Ties") by Shoshy Ciment (noting that, among other things, "[i]n 2004 the Wexner Foundation reportedly gave Epstein's foundation over $10 million"). Additionally, articles reported on Mr. Epstein allegedly leveraging Mr. Wexner's connections to meet other individuals and procure services. See, e.g., the February 16, 2026 Forbes article noted above (noting that "multiple pilots stated in federal investigations into Epstein that they came to work on Epstein's airplanes via a connection or direct introduction from Wexner"); a January 23, 2020 ABC News article ("Billionaire Businessman Leslie Wexner Refuses to Reveal Full Scope of Jeffrey Epstein's Alleged Multimillion-dollar Theft"). Several articles also referenced claims that Mr. Wexner gave Mr. Epstein significant latitude and authority in working on his behalf, which several individuals felt that Mr. Epstein abused. See, e.g., a July/August 2021 Vanity Fair article ("The Mogul and the Monster") by Gabriel Sherman.

Several articles noted Mr. Wexner's statements that he ended his working relationship with Mr. Epstein in 2007, when he revoked Mr. Epstein's power of attorney, ended his role as a financial advisor, and claimed that Mr. Epstein improperly took millions of dollars from him (which Mr. Epstein later repaid in part). See, e.g., a February 18, 2026 Associated Press article ("Billionaire Les Wexner is Being Deposed in the Epstein files Probe. Here's What Documents Show about Their Relationship"). However, the articles also referenced a subsequent e-mail between the two on June 26, 2008, shortly after Mr. Epstein pled guilty to state charges in Florida related to

soliciting prostitution from a minor. There, Mr. Wexner wrote "Abigail told me the result … all I can say is I feel sorry. You violated your own number 1 rule … always be careful," to which Mr. Epstein responded "no excuse." Id.

Mr. Wexner has made several public statements about Mr. Epstein since then, stating that he was embarrassed to have been "taken advantage of by someone who is … so depraved …." See a November 20, 2019 CNBC article ("L Brands CEO Les Wexner's Future Could Be at Stake as Epstein Ties, Falling Stock Haunt Victoria's Secret Parent") by Lauren Hirsch; see also a February 18, 2026 Reuters article ("Billionaire Wexner Says He Visited Epstein's Island but Denies Knowledge of Financier's Crimes") by Kanishka Singh (reporting that Mr. Wexner acknowledged visiting Mr. Epstein's island on one occasion with his family but denied any knowledge of criminal activity and stated that he was "duped by a world-class con man").

Second, numerous documents discussed information related to whether Mr. Wexner was aware of or involved in Mr. Epstein's criminal activities. Several requestors stated that Mr. Wexner was listed as a co-conspirator by the FBI, but never charged with a crime. On this point, they provided a redacted December 19, 2019 memorandum to former United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Geoffrey Berman from unidentified assistant United States attorneys analyzing evidence and claims related to potential co-conspirators of Mr. Epstein. As to Mr. Wexner, this memorandum summarized information received from his attorneys, including their statements that: (1) Mr. Wexner and Mr. Epstein had a largely professional but not social relationship; (2) Mr. Epstein sold himself Mr. Wexner's New York property and a private plane at discounted rates; (3) Mr. Epstein denied ever holding himself out as a Victoria's Secret scout when asked about it; (4) Mr. Wexner terminated Mr. Epstein's role in 2007 after learning that Mr. Epstein had stolen from him; (5) Mr. Epstein returned $100 million that he had misappropriated from Mr. Wexner in January 2008 after which Mr. Wexner severed all ties with him without further contact; and (6) Mr. Wexner was not aware of any alleged misconduct on his property. See also an August 15, 2019 e-mail from a redacted FBI employee (Subject: "Epstein co-conspirators – UNCLASSIFIED") (referencing Mr. Wexner as a "secondary co-conspirator" but noting "[t]here is limited evidence regarding his involvement"). The requestors also provided FBI investigation documentation, including intake forms from individuals who reported contacts between the two.

Additionally, several news articles discussed allegations made by Maria Farmer, who alleged that Mr. Epstein assaulted her at a residence either on or close to Mr. Wexner's property in New Albany and that Mr. Wexner's security team would not allow her to leave for 12 hours afterward. See, e.g., the July 25, 2019 New York Times article noted above. Ms. Farmer later stated that "she holds Wexner 'responsible for what happened to me,'" but the Wexner family publicly denied the allegations. See an October 6, 2019 Times of Israel article ("Epstein Accuser Holds Billionaire Wexner Responsible for Sexual Assault").

Additionally, several articles referenced allegations that Mr. Epstein posed as a scout for Victoria's Secret to recruit victims and that Mr. Wexner was allegedly aware of this behavior and indicated that he would address it but failed to do so. See, e.g., the July 25, 2019 New York Times article noted above; a July 26, 2019 CNN Business article ("Jeffrey Epstein's Business Relationship with Victoria's Secret Owner Leslie Wexner Was Far Deeper Than the CEO Let On, New York Times Reports") by Jordan Valinsky (reporting that Epstein's attempts to pose as a scout "troubled

executives at the company" and they alerted Mr. Wexner, who "reportedly said he would handle the issue, but Epstein's involvement in trying to attract models continued"); a January 4, 2024 Lantern article ("Wexner Named in Newly Unsealed Epstein Court Documents") by Nicole Nowicki (reporting that a woman named Alicia Arden claimed that Mr. Epstein "attempted to undress her and said he wanted to 'manhandle her'" while posing as a Victoria's Secret scout); the January 23, 2020 ABC News article noted above (reporting on similar claims made by Elisabetta Tai, who alleged that Epstein gave her the impression that he was in "'charge of Victoria's Secret' and could get her into the company's catalog"); an October 17, 2007 Palm Beach Post article ("Woman Sues Billionaire Investor, Says They Had Sex When She Was 16") (reporting on allegations that Mr. Epstein told a 16-year-old girl that "he managed finances for Victoria's Secret and 'could get you into the catalog' if she were 'nice' to him" by providing "massages and other favors"); and a July 19, 2022 Time article ("The Troubling Story Behind Hulu's New Documentary *Victoria's Secret: Angels and Demons*") by Shannon Carlin (referencing claims by anti-human trafficking advocate Conchita Sarnoff that "Epstein was able to 'legally bring girls from all over the world into the United States under the guise of modeling' thanks to his position as Wexner's financial advisor").

Numerous articles also reported on a message that Mr. Epstein allegedly drafted but never sent to Mr. Wexner. In that message, Mr. Epstein referenced their involvement in unspecified "gang stuff," stated "I owe a great debt to you, as frankly you owe to me," claimed that Mr. Wexner was being extorted by an unspecified individual, and stated that he always protected Mr. Wexner's interests and "had no intention of divulging any confidence of ours." See, e.g., a February 6, 2026 WOSU/NPR article ("Epstein Wrote Draft Message to Les Wexner about 'Gang Stuff' and Debts the Two Owed Each Other") by George Shillcock. Mr. Wexner's representatives noted, though, that the message was never sent and denied all allegations of misconduct, stating further that "[t]he draft appears to fit a pattern of untrue, outlandish, and delusional statements made by Epstein in desperate attempts to perpetuate his lies and justify his misconduct." See id.

B. Category 2 – Allegations concerning personal sexual misconduct

This category concerns allegations that Mr. Wexner personally engaged in sexual misconduct, based primarily on claims that Virginia Roberts Giuffre made in a January 16, 2016 deposition in a Florida state court case *Edwards et al. v. Dershowitz*, Case No. 15-000072. Ms. Giuffre, who died in 2025, was a prominent accuser of Mr. Epstein, and the requestors provided the full deposition transcript. While the deposition covers numerous issues unrelated to Mr. Wexner, she specifically alleged that she was trafficked to him for sexual purposes on multiple occasions, potentially more than five. Giuffre Deposition p.19, ll.13–15; p.22, ll.1–10; p.23, ll.16–25; p.24, ll.1–3. She made similar allegations concerning Mr. Wexner and another individual, Sarah Kellen, claiming that she (Ms. Giuffre) was present for those activities. Id. p.36, l.8–p.37, l.7. Further, she stated that she provided Mr. Wexner's name to the FBI and wanted to bring proceedings against him based on her allegation that he "participated in sex with minors." Id. p.71, ll.16-17; p.136, l.5–p.138, l.15.

The requestors provided numerous articles reporting on these allegations to varying degrees, though they largely just restated the above information and noted that Mr. Wexner denied the allegations. See, e.g., a January 11, 2024 NBC4i article ("Epstein victim Says Ohio Billionaire

Engaged in Sex Acts with Her") by Mark Feuerborn. Further, while the deposition outlines these allegations more fully, it appears that Ms. Giuffre made similar claims prior to that based on requestor-provided e-mail communications from March 4, 2011 purportedly from Mr. Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell. In those messages, Ms. Maxwell shared numerous allegations from a reporter asking for comment on various allegations, including allegations that Ms. Giuffre was "required to have sex" with Mr. Wexner and numerous others. Mr. Epstein then forwarded that message to an unspecified individual and called the claims "salcisous [sic] and ridiculous."

Additionally, the requestors provided numerous documents from court proceedings in which these allegations were discussed, including an August 17, 2020 letter from Mr. Wexner's counsel Marion Little to a judge and parties in a separate proceeding. Therein, Mr. Little stated that Mr. Wexner never met Ms. Giuffre and thus denied both her specific allegations and allegations that he participated in or was aware of Mr. Epstein's misconduct in any way. See also an August 10, 2020 Courthouse News Service article ("Ex-Victoria's Secret CEO Contradicts Alan Dershowitz in Epstein Fight") by Adam Klasfeld (reporting on competing claims regarding these allegations in the context of a defamation suit Alan Dershowitz filed against Ms. Giuffre).

C. Category 3 – Allegations concerning coordination with the Epstein Foundation

This category concerns allegations that Mr. Wexner allowed "an Epstein Foundation gift to help underwrite the naming of the Les Wexner Football Complex." The requestors submitted several documents related to the naming of the complex, including: (1) a 2005 OSU gift agreement accepting a gift of $5 million from an anonymous donor; (2) internal OSU communications from 2007 related to the anonymous gift that indicate credit should be assigned to Mrs. Wexner; (3) photocopies of checks from 2007 for $2.5 million each made out to OSU, one from the Leslie H. Wexner Charitable Fund and one from the COUQ Foundation (which was tied to Mr. Epstein); and (4) tax forms for the COUQ Foundation from 2001, 2003, and 2007.

D. Category 4 – Allegations concerning business employment practices

This category concerns allegations that Mr. Wexner engaged in improper employment practices at his businesses (including most relevantly L Brands, Victoria's Secret, and Abercrombie and Fitch). Specifically, the requestors alleged that Mr. Wexner, given his role as Chief Executive Officer of L Brands, played a role in hiring and/or retaining executives who engaged in misconduct and either promoted or tolerated a culture of harassment and retaliation at those businesses. Additionally, requestors raised the claims discussed in category 1 above that Mr. Wexner was allegedly notified that Mr. Epstein was posing as a scout for Victoria's Secret but did not stop the practice.

In support of these allegations, the requestors provided several news articles and documents related to settlement agreements involving Mr. Wexner's businesses. For example, they provided press releases from the law firm Quinn Emanuel in December 2021 and June 2022 discussing a settlement in a shareholder derivative suit against L Brands (as the parent company of Victoria's Secret and other entities) regarding allegations of a "toxic culture of sexual harassment and misogyny." According to these press releases, the settlement required L Brands "to revamp its policies and procedures regarding sexual harassment, retaliation, reporting and investigation," and the company "agreed to commit $90 million to fund these reforms," including by strengthening

anti-harassment/retaliation policies and procedures, eliminating non-disclosure agreements and not enforcing previous such agreements, and enhancing protections for models. See also an August 2, 2021 Unleash article ("Victoria's Secret Owner L Brands Settles Workplace Sexual Harassment Claims") by Allie Nawrat (reporting on the case and noting that the suit named Mr. Wexner and Mr. Razek specifically, but that the settlement would release them from litigation).

Second, the requestors provided several articles discussing allegations against Ed Razek (former L Brands Chief Marketing Officer) and Mike Jeffries (former Abercrombie Chief Executive Officer). Mr. Razek was accused of various forms of misconduct, including making inappropriate sexual advances to Victoria's Secret models and retaliating against those who rejected him. See, e.g., a February 6, 2020 The Hill article ("Victoria's Secret Models Demand End to Sexual Harassment at the Fashion Brand") by Alexandra Kelley. Mr. Jeffries was accused of coercing aspiring male models into sexual activity through promises of modeling jobs during his tenure as CEO (1992 to 2014). See, e.g., a March 21, 2025 Forbes article ("More than 40 Men Accuse Ex-Abercrombie & Fitch CEO Mike Jeffries of Sexual Abuse, Report Says") by Ty Roush. While the requestors did not provide evidence that Mr. Wexner himself engaged in such conduct, several articles reported that he was allegedly notified of such misconduct but took no responsive action. See, e.g., the February 6, 2020 The Hill article noted above (summarizing reporting that Mr. Razek "had enough power that 'he spoke for Les,' and was often seen as his proxy," that "more than a dozen complaints about Razek had been reported to H.R., and despite executives reportedly alerting [Mr. Wexner] to Razek's behavior, allegedly nothing was done").

Finally, the requestors provided several news articles that further reported on the allegations that Mr. Epstein posed as a scout for Victoria's Secret to solicit victims and that Mr. Wexner allegedly knew but did not take action to address this conduct as discussed more fully above in category 1.

E. Category 5 – Allegations concerning business marketing and manufacturing practices

This category concerns allegations that Mr. Wexner's businesses adopted improper practices in marketing (such as not featuring diverse body types and setting unrealistic beauty standards) and in manufacturing their products (such as by using overseas manufacturing sites).

While the requestors provided several articles on these topics, those documents largely just analyzed the companies' business strategy generally, and did not suggest any specific misconduct by Mr. Wexner. See, e.g., a June 9, 2020 Slate article ("Victoria's Secret Has Only Itself to Blame") by Seth Stevenson (stating that Victoria's Secret ads featured "images of absolutely flawless bodies, a level of perfection that no real woman—not even the models in those photos—could ever achieve in real life"); and an October 7, 2024 Substack article ("How Victoria's Secret Lost Its Way") by Amy Odell (noting that the company primarily featured thin models and relied on overseas manufacturing plants).

F. Category 6 – Allegations concerning OSU Board service

This category concerns allegations that Mr. Wexner acted improperly as part of his service on the OSU Board of Trustees, including generalized allegations of misconduct related to Dr. Strauss.

However, the documentation that the requestors provided did not specify any misconduct by Mr. Wexner. They provided the independent investigation report that the university commissioned from the law firm Perkins Coie in 2019 regarding the Dr. Strauss matter, but it does not reference Mr. Wexner by name or suggest any specific action by the Board related to Dr. Strauss aside from approving his emeritus status, and there is no indication in the report that the Board was aware of the allegations against him when that occurred. Likewise, while the requestors provided numerous news articles that noted that Mr. Wexner was on the Board while Dr. Strauss worked at the university and was more recently asked to testify regarding the litigation over those allegations, no specific connection or misconduct was noted. For example, a February 6, 2026 WOSU/NPR article by George Shillcock ("Epstein Wrote Draft Message to Les Wexner about 'Gang Stuff' and Debts the Two Owed Each Other") just referenced the Strauss litigation and a subpoena to Mr. Wexner over it generally. Numerous articles contained similar references.

G. Category 7 – Allegations concerning transparency

This category concerns allegations that Mr. Wexner acted contrary to the university's transparency interests by allegedly moving to quash a subpoena to compel his deposition related to Strauss litigation, being perceived as evasive in a U.S. House of Representatives Oversight Committee deposition related to the Epstein matter, and allegedly making donations to politicians to prevent the Epstein files from being released.

The requestors provided only three articles on these points: (1) a December 23, 2025 WYSO article ("Wexner Named in Released Epstein Email about 'Co-conspirators' in Sex Trafficking Case") by George Shillcock, which noted attempts by plaintiffs in the Strauss litigation to subpoena Mr. Wexner; (2) the February 6, 2026 WOSU/NPR article by George Shillcock noted above, which referenced the House Oversight Committee deposition and Strauss litigation subpoena; and (3) the February 16, 2026 Forbes article by Simone Melvin noted above (similar).

H. Category 8 – Allegations concerning speech and political activity

This category concerns allegations that Mr. Wexner engaged in improper lobbying or other similar activities through an entity named the Mega Group, otherwise sought to influence speech in an improper way, and "support[s] the current US president."

The requestors provided only three articles regarding these allegations: (1) an August 1, 2003 Free Press article ("The Wexner War") by columnist Bob Fitrakis, which referenced Mr. Wexner's alleged involvement with the Mega Group, which "meets purportedly to discuss 'philanthropy,' but others have speculated that their charitable interests are often a cover for lobbying activities on behalf of Israel"; (2) the July/August 2021 Vanity Fair article by Gabriel Sherman discussed above, which noted that Mr. Wexner co-founded the Mega Group as a philanthropic organization, that the group used some of its resources "to shape Middle East policy," and that Mr. Wexner commissioned an advisor on how to advocate for related causes; and (3) a July 26, 2019 Vox article ("What We Know – and What We Don't – about Retail Mogul Les Wexner's Connection to Jeffrey Epstein") by Hilary George-Parkin, which noted that Mr. Wexner "was a major donor to the Republican Party until President Donald Trump's election, when he began to speak out about Trump's comments on immigration and white supremacists."

I. Category 9 – Allegations concerning additional activities

The requestors also made several additional allegations that did not fit into other categories, including allegations that Mr. Wexner engaged in unspecified misconduct regarding the death of his former attorney; alleged "cannibalism, extortion"; allegedly "being involved in the payments of a doctor (still on OSU payroll) who works primarily in women's health care"; allegedly being a "lascivious presence around campus" in the 1970s; and allegedly owning "a plane company which was caught smuggling drugs into Ohio in the 90s."

The Committee only identified two documents relating to these allegations: (1) the August 1, 2003 Free Press column by Bob Fitrakis noted above, which states without referencing substantiating evidence that the police file on Mr. Wexner's former attorney's death was "personally ordered destroyed by Columbus Chief of Police James Jackson, [and] Wexner is listed as an alleged organized crime associate"; and (2) a Wikipedia entry for Mr. Epstein referencing a Drop Site News article from December 18, 2025 ("Epstein, Israel, and the CIA: How the Iran-Contra Planes Landed at Les Wexner's Base") detailing a 1996 incident in which cocaine was found hidden in a plane from the shipping company Mr. Wexner's businesses used, with no reported involvement by Mr. Wexner.

J. Additional documentation

Finally, the requestors submitted numerous documents that did not reference any specific misconduct by Mr. Wexner. These included: (1) news articles focusing solely on Mr. Epstein or others; (2) legal documents from cases associated with Mr. Epstein or others with no reference to Mr. Wexner (including those from Doe v. Epstein, Doe v. Trump and Epstein, Edwards v. Dershowitz, Florida v. Epstein, and Giuffre v. Maxwell); (3) documents from OSU's Strauss investigation that did not reference Mr. Wexner; and (4) other documents that did not reference Mr. Wexner, or were so redacted that it was impossible to identify their contents.

Committee review and recommendation

As noted above, to advance to a second stage of review, requestors must "provide substantial evidence of misconduct or other inappropriate behavior by the individual or entity at issue and demonstrate that that conduct or behavior is harmful to Ohio State's reputation for excellence and its values of integrity and inclusiveness." Thus, while the requestors are not expected to demonstrate definitively that misconduct or other inappropriate behavior occurred at this stage, they must provide evidence that is substantial enough to justify a full review of all potentially available information (beyond just the information that they provided).

At the outset, the Committee found that several of the allegations either failed to rise to that level on their face or failed to provide sufficient information to warrant further review. Specifically:

- The allegations in category 3 concerning alleged coordination with Mr. Epstein to make a gift to OSU do not specify any misconduct by Mr. Wexner, and merely document the larger contribution itself, which does not rise to the level of misconduct required to change a name pursuant to the Procedure.

- The allegations in category 5 concerning marketing and manufacturing practices at Mr. Wexner's businesses were too general in nature to warrant a potential name change. While individuals may take issue with how those companies' products were marketed or manufactured, those allegations as stated do not rise to the level of substantial misconduct in the Procedure.
- Similarly, there was not sufficient documentary support to justify further review into the allegations in category 6 concerning Mr. Wexner's Board service. While Dr. Strauss engaged in significant misconduct, the fact that he worked at the university while Mr. Wexner was on the Board does not correlate to misconduct by Mr. Wexner, and no more specific information was provided.
- The allegations in category 7 concerning Mr. Wexner's transparency likewise fail to demonstrate substantial misconduct or inappropriate behavior. These alleged actions all either fall within Mr. Wexner's legal rights or are too attenuated to warrant name removal even if substantiated, and the minimal documentation provided failed to specify any misconduct.
- The allegations in category 8 concerning speech and political activity as stated fall within Mr. Wexner's First Amendment rights, and would not be sufficient to remove a name even if fully substantiated. Individuals have the right to advocate for causes and candidates as they see fit, such that name removal is not appropriate for exercises of that right. Further, the documentation did not identify any misconduct in this area.
- Finally, the allegations in category 9 concerning various forms of alleged misconduct lacked documentary support; only two documents were produced, and neither sufficiently supported the allegations.

The Committee believes that the allegations in categories 1, 2, and 4 warrant further review, though. Cumulatively, these allegations outline a series of direct and significant allegations against Mr. Wexner tied to his interactions with Mr. Epstein, alleged personal sexual misconduct, and allegedly permitting individuals to promote a culture of harassment and retaliation at his businesses. As outlined above, the requestors provided numerous documents outlining the scope of these allegations, including claims that Mr. Wexner acted inappropriately in various respects. These allegations are serious ones, especially given the publicly reported details of Mr. Epstein's crimes. The sources provided also noted, though, that Mr. Wexner has repeatedly denied engaging in or having knowledge of any such misconduct, and has provided significant information to both governmental entities and the media to that effect, including with explanations that he was the victim of an individual he described as a "world-class con man."

Given the significance of the allegations, the documentation provided, the concerns raised by the requestors, Mr. Wexner's repeated denials of wrongdoing, and the potential harms associated with reaching conclusions based on incomplete or inaccurate information, the Committee believes that it is important to conduct a more fulsome review into all available documentation on these allegations so that it may provide a fully informed recommendation regarding name removal. Indeed, these allegations have been the subject of significant media and political scrutiny, with numerous documents having already been released publicly or reported on in some form. Allowing the Committee to review the full range of available documentation regarding these issues will allow it to conduct a more complete analysis.

Importantly, though, this recommendation is not a conclusion on the allegations' merit or lack thereof. The Procedure makes clear that there is a high bar for name removal following a full review, requiring "substantial evidence that the individual or entity's name is fundamentally at odds with and harmful to the university's reputation for excellence and its values of integrity and inclusiveness." Because the Committee is limited to the documents provided by the requestors at this stage, it cannot reach a conclusion regarding that ultimate standard presently, but further review will allow it to evaluate the facts in line with the Procedure more fully.

Conclusion

As stated above, the Committee finds that the initial criteria in the Procedure have been met to justify further review into the allegations concerning Mr. Wexner's relationship with Mr. Epstein, his alleged personal sexual misconduct, and alleged abusive employment practices at his businesses. As such, it recommends that a full review of those categories of allegations occur to facilitate a full and informed determination as to whether a name change is appropriate in line with the Procedure, but that no further review occur as to the remaining categories of allegations.

Should you need any additional information regarding the requests, the materials submitted, or the Committee's recommendation, please do not hesitate to let us know.