

August 11, 2008

Statement of the Original, Historic MUW Alumnae Association Negotiating Team:

Contrary to comments made by Dr. Claudia Limbert in her remarks today, the four-member team of the MUW Alumnae Association has continued to negotiate in good faith with Dr. Limbert's representatives.

At the May 20 meeting, we did bring forward the topic of a possible name change as having the potential of being a divisive issue at this time. Our spokesperson that night, Betty Ruth Henry Hawkins, said to her, "We have to talk about the subject of name change. We are in no way attempting to tell you what to do on this issue, but if name change becomes an issue, I want to know how our opposition or lack of support on the subject will affect this process. If we were to oppose a name change would we again be looking at disaffiliation?"

At no time has any member of the negotiating team issued an ultimatum concerning a name change. However, we did express concern to Dr. Limbert of the potential divisiveness of undertaking a name change at this time. We encouraged Dr. Limbert to resolve the alumni dispute before moving forward with a potential name change.

On June 26, we sent a proposal that was based on our prior negotiations in which Dr. Limbert participated and that we believed were amenable to all parties. Dr. Limbert has not responded. Her representatives indicated that they were not able to meet in July due to summer schedules, but would respond in writing by "the first week of August." No response was received, but the MUW Alumnae Association team contacted Renee Flynt, one of Dr. Limbert's representatives as recently as last week, asking about scheduling a meeting. Ms. Flynt's response was that she was traveling and would be in touch later.

If there is disappointment, it is ours.

We continue to wait a response and continue to be committed to cooperating fully in this process.

Members of the MUW Alumnae Association Negotiating Team:

Susan Rayner Puckett

Betty Lou Stuart Jones

Linda Ross Aldy

Betty Ruth Henry Hawkins

