Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees
September 20, 2011

SUBJECT: Resolution to Name FGCU Academic Building 3 the “William C. Merwin Hall”

PROPOSED BOARD ACTION

Approve resolution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

From 1999 to 2007, Dr. William C. Merwin served as Florida Gulf Coast University’s second President, and led a period of great development and advancement for the University. He passed away on May 6, 2011 after a lengthy illness.

“Florida Gulf Coast University in 2011 is light years ahead of where it would be today without the leadership of Bill Merwin,” said Florida Gulf Coast University President Wilson G. Bradshaw. “Bill served as president of FGCU during a time of unparalleled growth and development, and he will be fondly remembered as a dynamic leader whose vision and many accomplishments significantly advanced our university.

“His unwavering belief in the power of education was at the core of his contagious enthusiasm for FGCU, and he was greatly admired by students, faculty, staff, donors, elected officials, and community friends,” said President Bradshaw. “We are profoundly saddened by his passing, and also extremely proud of his legacy that always will be a part of Florida Gulf Coast University.”

In honor of Dr. Merwin’s service as President of Florida Gulf Coast University, the proposed resolution names the University’s Academic Building 3 the “William C. Merwin Hall” (“Merwin Hall”) in keeping with this area of the campus’ buildings named for individuals who made significant contributions to FGCU through their exceptional leadership and vision – “Ben Hill Griffin III Hall” (“Griffin Hall”), “Charles B. Reed Hall” (“Reed Hall”), “W. Thomas Howard Hall” (“Howard Hall”), and “Roy E. McTarnaghan Hall” (“McTarnaghan Hall”).
Supporting Documentation Included:  Resolution of Naming

Prepared by:  Chief of Staff & University Spokesperson Susan Evans

Legal Review:  N/A

Submitted by:  FGCU Board of Trustees Chair Scott Lutgert, and FGCU President Wilson Bradshaw
A Resolution of the
Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees

WHEREAS, in 1999 the Florida Board of Regents selected Dr. William C. Merwin to serve as the second President of Florida Gulf Coast University, a position he held until retiring in 2007; and

WHEREAS, the period of 1999 to 2007 was a time of exceptional growth and development at Florida Gulf Coast University due to the leadership and vision of President William C. Merwin; and

WHEREAS, this period at Florida Gulf Coast University under President Merwin’s leadership saw growth in enrollment from 3,284 to 8,309 students; the percentage of students attending full time from 46% to 73%; the annual operating budget from $52 million to $111 million; the number of campus buildings from 24 to 71; $175 million in private gifts and donations raised for support of every University aspect from academics to students to campus buildings to athletics; the addition of many new degree programs including Engineering and Music; expansion in student housing on campus, and the intercollegiate athletics program from its infancy to NCAA Division I; and

WHEREAS, Dr. William C. Merwin’s passing on May 6, 2011 left a campus and greater community profoundly saddened, yet equally proud of his tremendous legacy for Florida Gulf Coast University, Southwest Florida, and the State of Florida;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees wishes to honor Dr. William C. Merwin with the naming of the University’s Academic Building 3 the “William C. Merwin Hall” as a lasting tribute in recognition of Dr. Merwin’s exceptional contributions to higher education for generations of students to come at Florida Gulf Coast University.

DULY ADOPTED THIS 20th DAY OF SEPTEMBER IN THE YEAR 2011.

SIGNED:

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Scott F. Lutgert, Chair
Florida Gulf Coast University Board of Trustees