

Dear UNSW Staff Member,

We are writing to ask for your support in expressing our objection to the proposal to grant special privileges to a private donor group as a result of their gift of \$2 million to the project for the redevelopment of COFA.

On September 24, 2010, Dr Fred Hilmer reported a gift of \$2 million toward the new College of Fine Arts gallery by Dr Gene Sherman and Brian Sherman.
http://www.unsw.edu.au/news/pad/articles/2010/sep/sherman_cofagift.html

The multi-million dollar redevelopment of the COFA campus in Paddington will be funded primarily through a \$48 million grant from the Federal Government. It will give the city its third major public art gallery, according to the news article. This supposedly public art gallery is to be named after the Sherman group. A donation of \$2 million to a public gallery is certainly not significant enough to have it named after the donor, nor to grant the donor curatorial rights.

The innovative creative spirit of a public college of the arts needs to maintain its independence from influence by private corporate art bodies in order to flourish. A public art gallery based in the university provides one of the very few venues for artists to show their works free from commercial pressures and political influence.

It is completely unacceptable to have a gallery at an Australian university funded predominantly by federal monies named after a group which has donated such a small percentage to the overall cost. It is a public university and the name should reflect this.

The article also reported that the Sherman group would be granted the further privilege of having the School of Art History and Art Education renamed after it as the Sherman School of Art History and Art Education. Considering the long history of this school and the many wonderful teachers and students who have studied in it and built its reputation, it is completely unacceptable to have it renamed after the Sherman group, who have no such close affiliations with it.

A list of Schools at UNSW, none of which are named after individuals, is attached below. The proposed renaming of the School of Art History and Art Education sets a precedent for other private groups to be given the same privilege.

We need your support in objecting to the proposed changes to COFA. It is vital to maintain the integrity and independence of public education in Australia if teaching, learning and research are to be respected on an international level.

Please contact us with any help you might be able to offer and please raise your own objections wherever you can to help in this matter.

A concerned group of COFA students

List of Faculties and Schools at UNSW

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

School of Education
School of English, Media and Performing Arts
School of History and Philosophy
School of Languages and Linguistics
School of Social Sciences and International Studies

Australian School of Business

School of Accounting
School of Actuarial Studies
School of Banking and Finance
School of Business Law and Taxation
School of Economics
School of Information Systems, Technology and Management
School of Marketing
School of Organisation & Management
School of Strategy and Entrepreneurship
AGSM MBA programs
AGSM Executive programs
Master of Business and Technology Program

College of Fine Arts

School of Art
School of Design Studies
School of Media Arts
School of Art History and Art Education
COFA Online

Faculty of Engineering

School of Biomedical Engineering
School of Chemical Engineering
School of Civil & Environmental Engineering
School of Computer Science and Engineering
School of Electrical Engineering and Telecommunications
School of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering
School of Mining Engineering
School of Petroleum Engineering
School of Photovoltaic and Renewable Energy Engineering
School of Surveying and Spatial Information Systems

Faculty of Law

School of Law
Australian School of Taxation

Faculty of Medicine

School of Medical Sciences
School of Psychiatry
School of Public Health and Community Medicine
School of Women's and Children's Health
Prince of Wales Clinical School
Rural Clinical School
St George Clinical School
St Vincent's Clinical School
South Western Sydney Clinical School

Faculty of Science

School of Aviation
School of Materials Science and Engineering
School of Psychology
School of Biological, Earth and Environmental Sciences
School of Mathematics and Statistics
School of Risk and Safety Sciences
School of Biotechnology and Biomolecular Sciences
School of Optometry and Vision Science
School of Chemistry
School of Physics