



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

P. O. Box 2008

NEW BRITAIN, CONNECTICUT 06050

TEL. NEW BRITAIN: 203-229-1607

TEL. HARTFORD: 203-566-7373

RESOLUTION

concerning

ELLA GRASSO HALL

at

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

January 9, 1981

- WHEREAS, Ella Grasso, during her service as Governor of Connecticut, provided exemplary leadership on behalf of all public higher education and, in particular, on behalf of the Connecticut State College System, and
- WHEREAS, Ella Grasso, as Governor, was firm in her determination that the west-side campus should be built at Western Connecticut State College, and
- WHEREAS, The students of Western Connecticut State College, in recognition of Governor Grasso's personal commitment to their welfare and to their future as productive citizens of the State, have petitioned the Trustees to name the westside campus dormitory in her honor, and
- WHEREAS, The Trustees of the Connecticut State Colleges wish to honor Governor Grasso in a way which symbolizes the commitment which she and they have shared to make higher education available to able young people of the State without regard to economic background, now therefore, be it
- RESOLVED, That the dormitory authorized for the westside campus of Western Connecticut State College shall be named Ella Grasso Hall, and be it
- RESOLVED, That the Trustees instruct the Executive Director of the Connecticut State Colleges to inform Governor Grasso of their action and in so doing to express their continuing affection and respect for her.

A Certified True Copy:

James A. Frost
Executive Director



RECEIVED
DEC 31 1980
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

Office of the President

December 29, 1980

Dr. James A. Frost
Board of Trustees for State Colleges
P.O. Box 2008
New Britain, CT 06050

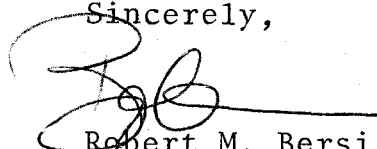
Dear Jim:

An item for next week's Planning Committee Agenda:

WCSC Student Referendum re "Ella T. Grasso Hall."

Appropriate back-up is attached.

Sincerely,



Robert M. Bersi
President

jpb
Encl.

December 29, 1980

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Board of Trustees for State Colleges
P.O. Box 2008
New Britain, CT 06050

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Vol. 16, No. 12, December 9, 1980

— EDITORIALS —

'Grasso' best name for dorm

WestConn was saddened last week at the resignation of Governor Ella T. Grasso. In her six years as governor she has earned tremendous respect from all who have joined her in the continuing battle for the growth of WestConn and the Westside campus.

There would be no more appropriate tribute to the governor than to name the new Westside dormitory in her honor. She has been consistently on WestConn's side in the effort to provide this much-needed facility for the students of WestConn and to the Western region of the state.

She has recognized that Fairfield County is among the fastest growing areas in the nation, has helped support us when other forces in the state sought to undermine and do away with the new campus project. She made personal tours of the Midtown campus and saw the facilities first-hand, re-affirming her pledge to aid this institution.

Mrs. Grasso is a gifted and clever politician. Not only is she the first woman ever elected governor in her own right in this country, she is a real professional. She never used her gender as an issue. Her record as a politician has not been marred by scandal — indeed she strengthened the economy and benefitted Connecticut as a whole.

The new dormitory is in our sights, finally, after many years of struggle. It seems inevitable that it should be named after one who has supported its cause so consistently. When forces at work in Connecticut's General Assembly seemed determined to stop the Westside project, Mrs. Grasso re-affirmed her support for the growth of WestConn.

She consistently kept in touch with WestConn, and had first-hand knowledge of this part of the state. We were never governed by ivory-tower tactics.

Now, during the holiday season, Mrs. Grasso deserves a tribute from WestConn. There is one way we can show her our appreciation for years of support, and ensure that her name will not be forgotten in the many years to come — when students will be taking advantage of the Westside campus and living in the dormitory that is finally going to be built.

Name the building after Ella T. Grasso. Each and every one of us can join in this tribute to a great lady.

The News-Times

Danbury, Conn. 06810, Monday, December 15, 1980

WestConn dormitory name

Students hope to honor Grasso

By Cathy Shufro
News-Times staff

DANBURY — Local college students hope to honor Gov. Ella T. Grasso by naming their new dormitory after her.

The student senate at Western Connecticut State College has proposed that the dormitory slated for the new Middle River campus be named after Mrs. Grasso, who announced Dec. 4 she would resign at the end of the month because of cancer.

The idea of honoring Mrs. Grasso by naming the building after her has been supported by the campus newspaper, praised by WestConn President Robert M. Bersi and encouraged by the executive director of the state college system.

Student body president Tony Saviano said he and many other WestConn students believe Mrs. Grasso was instrumental in getting the state Legislature to approve development of the new campus, where a \$9.5 million classroom building is under construction and the new dormitory is planned.

"I think she stuck her neck out politically to fight for the WestConn campus," said Saviano. "We probably wouldn't

have the classroom building underway and the new dormitory going up without her."

President Bersi has signed a bill from the student senate, asking the Board of Trustees of the four state colleges to name the dormitory after Mrs. Grasso. The senate voted 22-0 last week, with one abstention, in favor of the bill. Bersi said he has "nothing but praise and admiration" for the students' initiative.

According to Saviano, students saw Mrs. Grasso as their advocate in the fight over whether the new campus should be developed. Approval of the 165-bed dormitory, granted in September by the state's Board of Higher Education, was delayed for several years while state officials argued about whether expansion of the WestConn campus should be at the present White Street site or on the 300 acres on the city's west side. College officials now hope for a spring ground-breaking for the dormitory, expected to cost about \$5.5 million.

WestConn's campus newspaper, The Echo, carried an editorial last week backing the naming as an "appropriate tribute" to Mrs. Grasso, "in appreciation for years of support."

Mrs. Grasso first promised she would back the dormitory proposal in 1976, when she met with student leaders. Bersi said the students' suggestion to honor her four years later shows students "have a good sense of the continuum of the place."

"The students did not forget," he said. "I really admire them for it. Because most of the students who made this recommendation were not here when their predecessors met with the governor in 1976."

The students' suggestion is likely to be received "with the utmost sympathy" by the state Board of Trustees, according to James A. Frost, executive director for Connecticut's state college system.

Frost said Mrs. Grasso "has certainly been most instrumental in the develop-

ment of that west side campus. I think it would be well-received.

"This a residence hall, a place where students will be living," he added. "I'm sure that would carry a lot of weight with the Board of Trustees, since it is a student suggestion."

Frost said the proposal will go to the board's planning committee, which meets Jan. 7.

He said the only rule the Board of Trustees observes in naming buildings is a policy against honoring people still in office. He noted that Mrs. Grasso appointed 14 members of the 16-member volunteer board. The two student representatives — including Thomas Ford of WestConn — were elected by fellow students.

Mayor James E. Dyer, who graduated from WestConn and strongly backed expansion when he served in the state Legislature, yesterday said "an appropriate tribute (to Mrs. Grasso) should take place on the new campus. Whether it's a dorm, I don't know."

Dyer suggested that another person to be honored on the new campus should be local resident Ruth A. Haas, WestConn president for 29 years until 1975, when Bersi took office.

Danbury

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
WESTERN CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

LEGISLATION

Makers Name EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Date 8 DECEMBER, 1980

Second _____

Motion SB 81-50

Resolution _____

I Move:

I Resolve:

WHEREAS, Governor Grasso's efforts on behalf of Western Connecticut State College have been constant and effective, and

WHEREAS, Governor Grasso's support of the Westside Campus at Western Connecticut State College has never wavered, and

WHEREAS, The students of Western Connecticut State College would respectfully like to acknowledge that support, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the students of Western Connecticut State College express their wish that the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges name the recently approved Westside Campus dormitory the ELLA T. GRASSO HALL.

Ammendments:

Action

Committees

Senate

Committee (s) Sent To _____

Date 8 December, 1980

Abstentions

No

Yes

Pass

Fall

SGA President

Tommy Sawyer

Administration

[Signature]

Date Out

Committee Votes

Yes

No

Abstentions

Comments/Recommendations
