

From: richard kohler <rrkarchitect@gmail.com>
To: "president@dixie.edu" <president@dixies.edu>;
"trustees@dixie.edu" <trustees@dixie.edu>;
"ilene@dsuhc.org" <ilene@dsuhc.org>;
George R Cannon Jr <grcannonjr@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, June 18, 2021, 11:35:48 AM MDT
Subject: utah polytechnic state university is a terrible name

Utah Polytechnic State University is a bad name ... can you say UPSU without thinking of a dirty joke. You are depriving the local populace of an institution they worked for and built, all in the name of "marketing". Should have spent your money on quality teachers that care about student success. Name reflects a double dose of hypocrisy. This name erases what the institution is and all its history of becoming. Then the ridiculous new name, lies about what it really is. Polytechnic implies that (mostly) the courses offered are vocational or technical. Check your course catalog. Compare it to DixieTech. You lose. Review the academic pedigree of your professors and tell me the chosen name isn't intellectually dishonest. It's a second rate name for what should be a first rate university. The name excludes a great deal of the quality education that is happening at DSU. The name will ruin the educational quality of the institution.

The unnamng of Dixie State University

I am a member of the Washington County Historical Society and have undertaken research on aspects of the Dixie unnamng controversy. You may be familiar with some of this history.

First, Dixie is a place name. Its earliest use designated that portion of Utah where sub-tropical crops could be grown and was usually accompanied by a listing of those commodities. The historical names Dixie Academy, Dixie Normal School, Dixie Junior College, Dixie College, Dixie State College and Dixie State University reveal the evolution of education in Utah's Dixie. The local community has participated in many efforts over the years to enhance the status, funding and prestige of the college as it evolved from into Dixie State University.

Dixie Academy began as Saint George Stake Academy was a church school until the Great Depression when local leaders sought to alleviate financial hardships by transferring ownership of the institution to the State of Utah. Among the local leaders involved in that effort was Orval Hafen who was both City and County attorney at the time. The successful effort required local community members to pay the expenses of Dixie College for a two year period until the State of Utah could take over. For me, this emphasizes that the college "belonged" to the local

community and the State "became" the vehicle for financial support and institutional leadership. This "bargain" or arrangement has worked well over past decades.

Unnaming Dixie State University has evolved as a response to criticism by Black Lives Matters and others complaining that the word "Dixie" is inherently racist regardless of the actual history of Utah's Dixie. They point to Jim Crow laws that evolved in Southern States after Reconstruction as evidence.

National databases of Jim Crow laws list (5) miscegenation laws for Utah. A March 10, 1888 newspaper Salt Lake Herald Republican article details Utah Territorial laws prohibiting marriage between white people and either negroes or Monogolians. These Territorial laws were the result of negotiations regarding Utah qualifying for Statehood.

It is notable that in 1937, Orval Hafen as Washington County attorney, took an important step in challenging Utah's miscegenation laws. Hafen had success in limiting the application of these miscegenation laws, when the Utah Attorney General ruled that Filipinos could marry whites. Orval Hafen was elected to the Utah State Senate in 1952. It is notable that Utah's miscegenation laws were voided in 1953. It should also be noted that during Orval Hafen's tenure as Senate president in the 1960s, Utah passed progressive Civil Rights legislation.

This link <http://utahhistory.sdlhost.com/#/item/000000031001160/view/77> will take you to past Dixie College president Douglas Alder's Utah Historical Quarterly article on Orval Hafen's impact on Dixie. I hope you will see that the supporters of Dixie State University (and its predecessors) have played important roles in the civil rights movement.

Utah's Dixie is a place and a community that has welcomed equal rights. As the reach and prestige of Dixie State University has grown, more and more outsiders of all races have become students and faculty here. Many are unfamiliar with the nuances of our local history that would make them feel more at comfortable. Perhaps, keeping the name Dixie with the questions which it raises is a good idea, because the answers to those questions found in our history will be enlightening.

Thank you for your consideration,

Richard Kohler