



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

FOR THE STATE COLLEGES

1280 ASYLUM AVENUE HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06105

RESOLUTION

concerning

The Naming of New Buildings at Central Connecticut State College

December 13, 1972

WHEREAS, The world next year will honor the 500th anniversary of the birth of Nicolaus Copernicus, the 16th Century Polish astronomer-scientist who first proved in theory the correlation of the earth and its solar system, and

WHEREAS, The State of Connecticut can justly do honor to the memory of this scientist, astronomer and mathematician, be it

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges hereby amends its resolution of June 4, 1971. Therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges approves the name of Nicolaus Copernicus Hall for the new Science-Industrial Education Building at Central Connecticut State College, and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Special General Biology Laboratories located in the said building be named in honor of the memory of the late Dr. Charles E. Pratt in recognition of his 33 years' service to the College, the State and its young people.

CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE

New Britain, Connecticut

Office of Public Affairs
Peter A. Durham, Director
225-7481 Ext. 383

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

New Britain - Central Connecticut State College's new \$8.9 million science-industrial technology building will be named in honor of the 16th Century Polish astronomer-scientist Nicolaus Copernicus.

The action was taken Friday by the Board of Trustees for the State Colleges in recognition of the 500th anniversary of the birth of Copernicus who shook the world of scientific thought with a revolutionary theory of astronomy about the time Columbus was charting new passages across the seas.

The Board's action was prompted by the opportunity to name a public scientific research facility for one of the world's most renown astronomers, a contemporary of Leonardo daVinci and a forerunner by a century of Galileo who went on to refine the theories first voiced by Copernicus.

Copernicus Hall will be the only public building in Connecticut honoring the man who forwarded the theory that the earth revolves around the sun - contrary to current scientific beliefs of his time - and may well be one of the few structures in this country devoted to scientific research named for this scientist.

The Board also voted to name the special general biology laboratories in the memory of the late Dr. Charles E. Pratt, a professor of science who had specialized in general science during his 33-year tenure at Central.

The 153,000-square-foot building, now under construction on the 140-acre New Britain campus, will include a 125-seat planetarium, a roof-top solar observatory, a 150-seat multi-media facility, a greenhouse and deep freeze units for research purposes. It is being built at a cost of better than \$1.5 million below the original \$11.5 million estimate.

Nicolaus Copernicus, born Feb. 19, 1473, lived in a world that believed a stationary earth was overhung with a heaven and moving heavenly bodies - the sun, moon, stars and planets.

Through his studies, he detected errors that he resolved in a new theory that the earth, too, is but another planet; that all rotate around the sun. This belief, the seed of modern space theory, was revolutionary in its time.

Fortunately, Copernicus was soon made a canon of the cathedral at Frombork, Poland, through the influence of his uncle, a powerful prelate.

From there Copernicus, who had studied mathematics, astronomy, law and medicine, evolved his new sun-center ideas and cautiously circulated these beliefs - unsigned. He was the first scientist to mathematically prove that the earth moved around the sun, rather than the popular belief of the time that the sun revolved around the earth.

Eventually, he was persuaded to publish his masterpiece, "The Revolutions of the Heavenly Bodies". A copy of his book reached his dying hands in Frombork, May 24, 1543.

The five-floor building will be air conditioned and will devote 41,000 square feet to industrial technology, 23,000 square feet to biological sciences, 11,000 square feet to chemistry, 20,000 square feet to physics and earth sciences and 19,000 square feet to general classrooms.

It will have the capacity of handling 908 students in general classrooms at a time, 1,260 students at a time in its laboratories and will include 34 research stations for graduate students.

Designed by the New Britain firm of Hirsch, Kaestle & Boos, Copernicus Hall will be located on the corner of Wells Street and Sefton Drive in the center of the campus. Its design features and exterior are similar to those of Central's new \$5 million Elihu Burritt Library across Wells Street which opened in September.

Housed in Copernicus Hall will be Central's Division of Natural Sciences with the departments of Biology, Chemistry and Physics and Earth Sciences; and the Division of Technology with the departments of Industrial Arts Education, and Vocational Industrial and Technical Education.

#



CENTRAL CONNECTICUT STATE COLLEGE
New Britain, Connecticut

Office of the President

October 20, 1972

Dr. James A. Frost, Executive Secretary
Board of Trustees for the State Colleges
1280 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Jim:

I am pleased to support the request from Commissioner Kozlowski that the Science-Industrial Education Building which is presently under construction on our campus be renamed Copernicus Hall by our Board of Trustees. I have discussed this with my colleagues at Central and we feel that this is a most appropriate change and will certainly result in unusually productive good public relations for the College and the Board.

The timeliness of this proposed change is also most appropriate. A group of Polish-Americans is now initiating a fund-raising project to establish a Polish Studies collection in our Library. We offer non-credit Polish language courses through our Evening College. Central thus has an established relationship with the Polish-Americans in our State.

I would recommend that if the Board of Trustees renames the building Copernicus Hall, the General Biology laboratories in the building be designated as the Charles E. Pratt Laboratories. This would preserve the name and honor to Professor Pratt in naming the entire building after him.

With best wishes.

Cordially yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Don".

F. Don James
PRESIDENT

fdj:lp

October 13, 1972

Mrs. Bernice Niejadlik
Chairman
Board of Trustees
of State Colleges
1280 Asylum Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut

Dear Mrs. Niejadlik:

At a recent meeting in Hartford, attended by many leaders of the Polish Community throughout Connecticut, a suggestion was made to attempt to name the new science building under construction at C.C.S.C. "The Copernicus Science Building".

As you know, next year marks the 500th anniversary of his birth. We feel this would be a most fitting tribute to the great Polish scientist who stopped the sun.

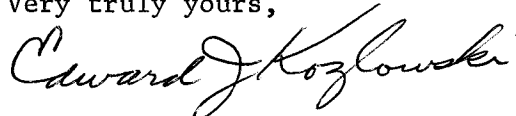
It is also my understanding that the building has already been named Pratt Hall after a member of the faculty who retired some 20 years ago. This represents a somewhat delicate situation and places your honorable board on the spot so to speak.

The feeling is extremely strong in this direction and I therefore, in behalf of the Polish community of Connecticut, respectfully request that the name of the new science building be changed from Pratt Hall to the Copernicus Science Building.

This matter was discussed with the following distinguished Americans of Polish decent. Mr. Alexander Zarnowski, President of the Polish American Congress of Connecticut; Mr. Walter Presczh, President of the Polish National Home, Hartford, Connecticut; Monsignor Anthony Bomboliski, Pastor of S.S. Cyril and Methodius Church, Hartford, Connecticut; Judge Walter Bieulich, Circuit Court, State of Connecticut and many others and carries their enthusiastic support.

Would you be kind enough to bring this important matter to your board at your October 26, 1972 meeting for a decision.

Very truly yours,



Edward J. Kozlowski

EJK:lap