

A resolution of the Graduate and Professional Student Government (GPSG) supporting the naming of an Abele Building, in honor of Julian Abele, architect of Duke University

Author:

GPSG Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee

Co-Sponsored by:

Duke Black Graduate and Professional Student Association (BGPSA)

Whereas, Julian Abele was the architect of Duke University.

Whereas, Julian Abele was African-American in an era of the Jim Crow South, and, thus, may not have set foot on the university he designed.

Recognizing, the main quad of Duke University was named after Julian Abele in 2016, yet is colloquially referred to as “The Quad” or “The Main Quad”.

Recognizing, even when the main quad of Duke University is referred to as the Abele Quad, it is often mispronounced “A bell” instead of “Able”.

Recognizing, the recent renaming of the former Social Psychology building as the Reuben-Cooke building, in honor of Wilhelmina Reuben-Cooke, one of the “First Five” African-American undergraduate students at Duke University.¹

Now, therefore be it resolved by the GPSG that the graduate and professional student body of Duke University:

Calls for the naming of an Abele Building on Duke University’s West Campus, to honor the extraordinary legacy Julian Abele has left Duke University.

Calls on the President’s Advisory Committee on Institutional History to evaluate this possibility.

¹ <https://today.duke.edu/2020/09/reuben-cooke-building>