

As adopted by the Faculty Senate at its meeting on 6 October 2008

**MOTION TO INITIATE CONSULTATIONS
TO RENAME CAMPUS DRIVE TO KARL LINK DRIVE**

Submitted by Professor Anatole Beck, District 63 (Mathematics)

Background

Unlike many of the faculty, Karl Paul Link's scientific accomplishments include some things whose value are readily understood and appreciated by the people of Madison, of Wisconsin, of the United States and the world. Notable is the research that originated from the analysis of sweet clover disease in dairy cows and led to the isolation and synthesis of dicumerol, a product of the fermentation of sweet clover in silage. He discovered that large doses of Vitamin K would save the cows at risk. The dicumerol became used as a rodenticide that did not result in rats becoming bait-shy, thus saving untold quantities of stored grain in a hungry world. Later, innovative use of the compound for thinning the blood of patients with coronary artery disease and other threats from blood clots allowed the use of dicumerol as a preventative of dangerous blockages of the arteries. He named it warfarin in honor of WARF, which patented it, and it has been one of the major sustainers of the program of research by WARF at this university. Nonetheless, his name and fame are lost in this city and this state, and even the connection to the research foundation is unknown to most of the people who use the drug as a life-sustaining medication.

Warfarin today sustains the lives of millions of Americans, more millions of Europeans, and untold more in the rest of the world. Everywhere I have traveled, I have encountered people who rely on it. It has been used to treat heart disease in at least two presidents, and I myself am also among its beneficiaries. Among the contributions this university has made to the people of the world, this stands with others from the Department of Biochemistry, such as the work of Professors Steenbock and DeLuca in Vitamin D.

This university has never accorded an appropriate degree of honor to this defender of freedom of speech and assembly within the university and hero of the spirit of research that is properly the greatest validation of the public money that sustains it.

Many years ago, the Faculty Senate sought to rename Campus Drive as Karl Link Drive. Such a renaming would have been singularly appropriate as the drive passes so many of the places that are connected to his accomplishments. Starting at the biochemistry buildings where he worked, it passes Babcock Hall, home of the Department of Dairy Science, then past the stock pavilion, the School of Veterinary Medicine and the UW and VA Hospitals. All owe gratitude to the memory of this scientist.

WARF pledged to cover the costs of renaming and resigning the drive, but when the proposal came to the Planning Commission of the City of Madison it received some opposition and was withdrawn by the official who had been entrusted with arguing for its acceptance.

The intervening years have been filled with pressing issues of academic freedom and due process, issues that Professor Link would have accorded precedence over honoring him. But eventually the record must be squared. If we take up the honoring of this scientist, we honor ourselves and the work we do. If we continue in not honoring this hero of the spirit of the Enlightenment, we dishonor ourselves. Professor Link is long since gone and beyond any pleasure this move could give to him, but the failure to stand up for what is most precious to us is a failing that we must correct.

Motion

The Faculty Senate, on behalf of the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, requests the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation and the City of Madison to again initiate consultations leading to the possible renaming of Campus Drive as Karl Link Drive in order to honor the inventor of WARFarin.