



Calvin finally becomes a university

Thirteen years later,
Vision 2030 process complete

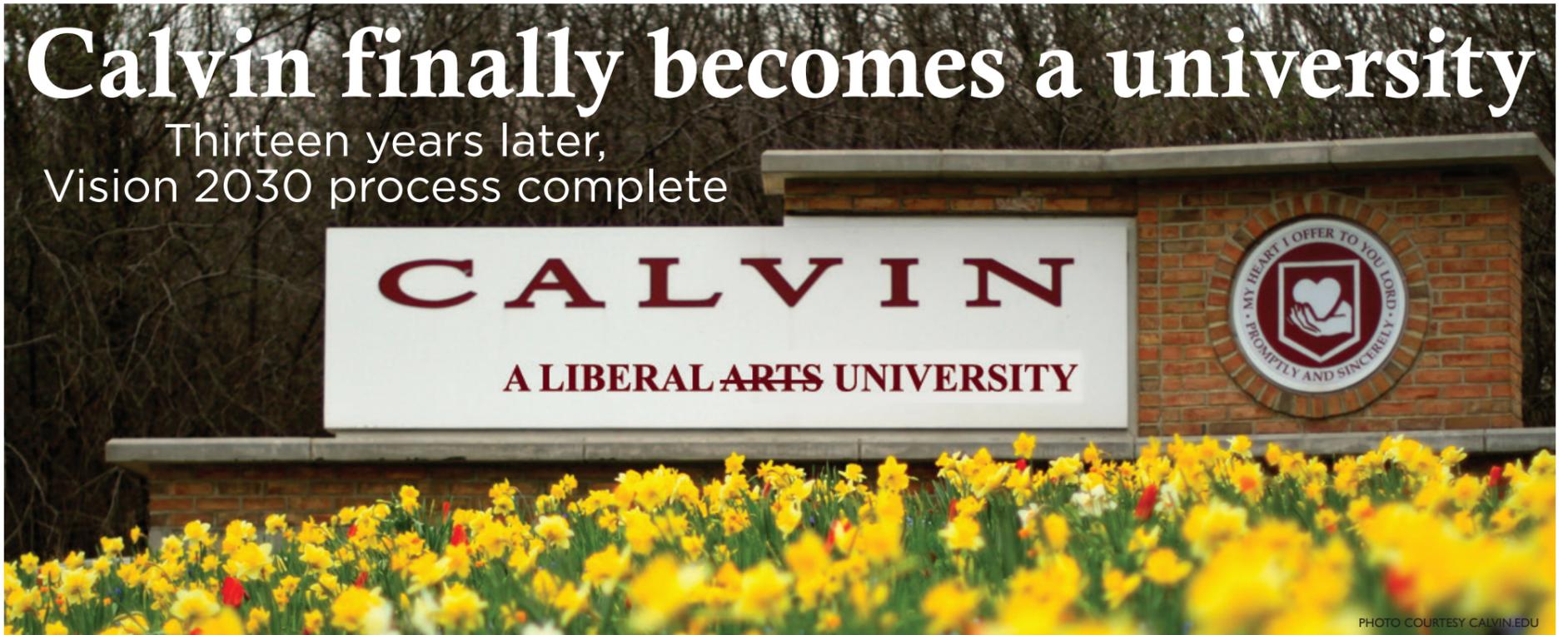


PHOTO COURTESY CALVIN.EDU

BY POSH JARKS
Editor-in-Grief

After a 13-year-long visioning process, Calvin College has been renamed Calvin University.

The institution's new official name, approved by the board of trustees last week, is "Calvin: A Liberal Arts University." The strikethrough is trademarked.

According to President Le Roy, the new name reflects "Calvin's continuing commitment to engage students who are committed to engage the world as agents

of committing to engage with things."

"And, in a larger way, it reflects this general sense that the arts are more integrated throughout our campus and no longer need to be explicitly named or included," Le Roy added.

Dayle VanOldsma, an alumnus Chimes reached for comment, pointed out that the new name is very appropriate given Calvin's "long history of burning in the nonexistent hell of theological liberalism."

Students can expect tuition to increase significantly to pay for replacement light-up

signs on East Beltline and Burton St.

"The cost is significant because the strikethrough font is an unusual request," said Thomas VanBlank, communications director for Roadside Signs Apparently Limited. VanBlank graduated from Calvin as a writing major, but now he has to have "a real job" because "no one reads books anymore."

Although the name "university" is typically associated with larger institutions, Calvin sees itself as a trailblazer by adopting the university model at a time when its

enrollment has dropped below two thousand for the first time since students have been allowed to watch movies.

Le Roy did clarify, though, that the new Calvin University would not be associated with any of the negative connotations of the word "university," such as adequate research funding, affordable tuition or worldwide name recognition.

Rather, the change was motivated by a desire to recognize the university-like qualities the school already possesses, such as Calvin's institutes, graduate programs and robust party culture.

As part of the changes, Calvin has converted three dorm buildings into housing for its 200 new admissions staff, who work mandatory 80-hour weeks.

"I really think the 2030 vision was a little nearsighted," said a student in the new Calvin Institute for Ophthalmology, where the professors have to also teach in the computer science department because of Calvin's lack of competitive pay.

Calvin converts to metric system

BY FETER PORD
I can manage

After years of measured discussion, the board of trustees decided Tuesday to convert Calvin University's campus to use the metric system instead of the English system.

A group of professors spearheaded this change because, as they pointed out, the English system retains its imperialist and colonialist history.

The move has also been billed as an effort to be more friendly to international students who are more familiar with the metric system. President Michael "the king" Le Roy even went so far as to call flipping the system "a sort of affirmative action."

"These changes," he said, "will make international students feel more at home and local students feel like they are going to college abroad."

However, political science professor Micah Sherlock doesn't buy that explanation.

"The administration takes credit for all these things, but it's not really our choice. We have been predestined to use the metric system from day one.

We didn't choose it; it chose us," Sherlock said.

Although Le Roy says the administration doesn't see it as their job to convert anyone, the proposal offered to help current English-system users by providing conversion charts "free of charge" (which might explain the addition of a "technology fee" this semester).

The very text of the proposal offers an example of the sorts of changes the Calvin community can expect.

Professor Lew Klatt, a self-proclaimed "metric evangelist," helped faculty senate phrase the proposal in a special meter and rhyme. Instead of iambic feet, the dactyls and spondees were written in decameters.

Fans of the proposal are excited to finally be able to accurately refer to Abraham Kuyper's "square centemetre". (The proposal also snuck in a hidden amendment allowing me to use British English spelling and punctuation whenever I want to.)

In addition, the 5K Spring Classic, which once seemed exotic in kilometers, has been converted to the 3.10686mi Spring Classic, which seems just as exotic now.

However, this decision has caught some heat from the Calvin com-

munity. The only catch: instead of Celsius, this heat has come in degrees Kelvin.

So far, the biggest complaint has been about the dorms. The physical plant recently purchased new curtains for all the dorms, and they will each have to be converted from inches to centimeters.

This conversion alone will cost an estimated 2,000 person-hours from physical plant staff. These and other costs associated with the switch-over will be rolled into a small tuition increase for students next year.

"We feel like this is for the good of the Calvin community. It's a short-term investment for a long-term benefit," said Le Roy.

With all the recent changes, there have been unconfirmed rumours resurrecting the idea of a Calvin University football team. The director of the physical plant has received quotes from at least two companies that are willing to install a 100-meter-long football field. This would end up being about 25 feet longer than a typical American football field, for those of you who haven't converted yet.

Length	1	=	0.621371
Kilometer			Mile
Length	1	=	1.09361
Meter			Yard
Length	1	=	2.54
Inch			Centimeter
Length	1	=	30.48
Foot			Centimeter

SCREEN CAPTURES COURTESY GOOGLE.COM

Calvin students will receive a free subscription to conversion services on Google.

