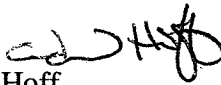


MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 13, 2013

TO: Lynn Williams, Chair
Academic Senate

FROM: 
Andrew Hoff
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Proposed Named Change – Department of Geography
to Department of Geography and City & Regional Planning

Enclosed please find a memo dated September 18, 2013, from Luz Gonzalez, Dean of the College of Social Sciences as well as the September 5, 2013 request from the Department to the Dean.

I am supportive of their request to rename the Department of Geography to the **Department of Geography and City & Regional Planning**.

As outlined in the *Academic Policy Manual* (APM 113, section IV item B2 and item F -- *Procedures for Organizational Changes in College/Schools, Divisions and Departments and Programs (...renaming of departments)*) I am forwarding this request to the Academic Senate.

I look forward to having this item on the Executive Committee agenda in the near future.

AH:kyp

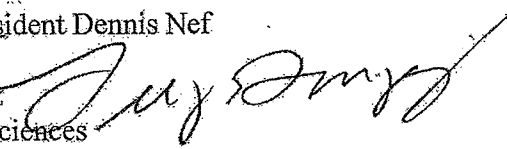
Attachment

c: Luz Gonzalez, Dean

MEMORANDUM

Date: September 18, 2013

To: Provost Andrew Hoff
Associate Vice President Dennis Nef

From: Dean Luz González 
College of Social Sciences

Re: Proposed Department Name Change

I am forwarding to you a proposal submitted by the Department of Geography in which they request that we approve a name change to **Department of Geography and City & Regional Planning** effective immediately. The department faculty submits a clear analysis and justification based on historical data and changing market needs. The San Joaquin Valley is considered one of a few areas in California that has the capacity to grow and the professors are excited about restoring the rigorous program in City and Regional Planning that they suspended back in 1982.

Thank you kindly for your consideration.

Memorandum

DATE: September 5, 2013

TO: Dr. Luz Gonzalez, Dean
College of Social Sciences

FROM: Dr. Segun Ogunjemiyo, Chair
Geography Department



SUBJECT: Department Name Change

At department faculty meeting on July 28, 2013, the Geography faculty unanimously voted to change the name of the Department of Geography to the *Department of Geography and City and Regional Planning*. The reasons for this proposed name change are:

1. The Department of Geography has been in existence for more than 50 years. Throughout this period the department has awarded students with a BA degree in Geography. Because the areas of program concentration were mostly in those traditionally associated with Geography the identity of the department was reflected in its name. This is no longer the case as a consequence of recent changes in the department.
2. The changing market needs have led the department to make changes to its curriculum to include an area of concentration in planning in the geography degree. The department currently offers an undergraduate minor in Urban Studies which many geography majors have completed in recent years. Furthermore, the department has increased the number of planning courses that are taught on a regular basis. A proposal submitted by the department to start, in 2014, an online Certificate of Advanced Study in Community and Regional Planning is awaiting approval at the university level. Additionally, there are two proposals being developed. The first proposal is to create an option in City and Regional Planning that the department hopes to be made available to students beginning in the fall of 2014 so that students completing the option will have the skills necessary to obtain entry-level planning jobs. The second proposal will be to create a separate BS degree in City and Regional Planning. With the hiring of a planner at the Assistant Professor level in 2011, the department began an active research component in City Planning, which is expected to grow subsequent to the hiring of an environmental planner at the Assistant Professor level in the fall of 2014. To achieve the benefits of these changes the university community, and the general public, should be able to associate the Department of Geography with a planning program. The Geography faculty believes the proposed new name will serve that purpose.
3. The decision to change the department name is strengthened by the outcome of a study by the faculty that looked into how our department might be better able to describe itself

to the greater community that is currently being served by Fresno State. Our investigations have led us to identify that there is a genuine need in the San Joaquin Valley for city and regional planners, and that this need is becoming increasingly dire as current planners, many of whom earned their planning degrees at Fresno State when it offered a planning degree, retire from the workforce.

4. It is our belief that officially changing the departments name to Geography and City and Regional Planning will make it clear to potential students, and the communities in which they reside, that our department is making a firm commitment to the development of a curriculum that would serve to prepare students to become city and regional planners.
5. It is also our belief that having such a name would enable university students to be better focused on their educational goals, thus encouraging them to complete their studies in a timely fashion.
6. The changing of the department name would also make it easier to strengthen relationships between our department, the university, developers, and local city and county governments. We believe that such relationships will lead to better long-term planning for communities that are served by Fresno State, and greater efficiency in addressing problems as they arise.
7. A proposal for a department name change has a precedent in the University. Not long ago the Department of Geology has its name changed to Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences. For reasons similar to those enumerated above, in 2008 the Department of Health Science Changed to Department of Public Health and in 2010 the Department of Agricultural Economics changed to the Department of Agricultural Business.

According to APM 113, section IV, items F and G, proposals to change the name of a department must be discussed among the affected units involved and then a formal proposal sent to the Provost and the Academic Senate. The Department of Geography is the only affected unit in this proposal.

The Department of Geography appreciates your support and approval of this proposal and hereby request that it be forwarded to the Provost and the Academic Senate.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions, or concerns, regarding this proposal.

Cc. Geography Faculty