

**PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY**

**TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:** Proposed Name Change for the Department of Speech and Hearing Science, College of Applied Health Sciences, to the Department of Speech, Hearing, and Language Sciences

**SPONSOR:** College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS)  
Department of Speech and Hearing Science  
Contact: Ron D. Chambers, Associate Professor  
901 S. Sixth Street, 333-2230

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science proposes to change its name to the Department of Speech, Hearing, and Language Sciences.

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Department of Speech and Hearing Science has had departmental status on the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus since 1972. The name has served the department and discipline well, particularly as an established research-based discipline and a highly-rated department. However, the term “speech and hearing” implies a narrow focus on oral speech, and limits the image of the discipline and department to issues of oral and aural communication. Over the past several decades, the discipline and the department have significantly expanded their research, instructional, and public engagement missions in communication science to include language science as well as hearing and speech science. Language science includes the neurocognitive, structural, and social aspects of language and language disorders. The parent professional/scientific organization of the discipline changed its name from the American Speech and Hearing Association to the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association. The name of the premiere journal of the discipline changed from the *Journal of Speech and Hearing Science* to the *Journal of Speech, Language, and Hearing Science*. The department has well-established research programs in language science, and language science is an essential feature of the department’s curriculum at all levels. In addition, the department offers a sequence of courses in American Sign Language that meets the undergraduate requirement for a second language.

It is important for the department to have a name that is reflective of its broad involvements across all aspects of communication science, creates an accurate image of the department, faculty, students, alumni, and the discipline, and effectively connects to all of its constituents in communication science. The proposed name change does not create any new programs, but more accurately reflects the research, instructional, and service scope of the discipline and the department, and provides a better descriptor for the department’s identity. The department’s faculty unanimously supports the name change.



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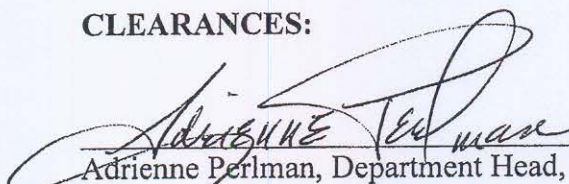
**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

The estimated cost to change signage and letterhead upon approval should not exceed \$5,000. Other publications, letterheads, and cards will be changed as need for replacement arises. No additional staff is required for the proposed name change. No internal reallocations of faculty and staff work loads are required for the proposed name change. The proposed name change should have no effect on course enrollments in other departments. The name change should have no impact on the department's use of the University Library. The name change should have no impact on computer, equipment, or laboratory use.

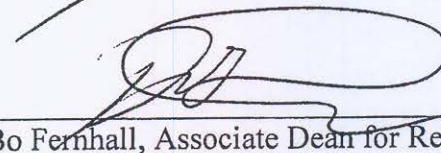
**GUIDELINES FOR UNDERGRADUATE EDUCATION:**

The new name will more accurately reflect the scope of the department and the discipline. The name change will have no effect on curriculum requirements.

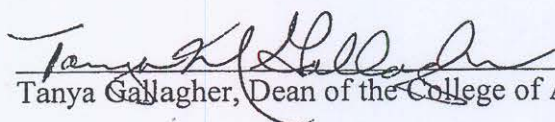
**CLEARANCES:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Adrienne Perlman, Department Head, Speech and Hearing Science

2-29-08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bo Fernhall, Associate Dean for Research and Academic Affairs, AHS

3/25/08  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tanya Gallagher, Dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences

3/25/08  
Date

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2008

*PROPOSED NAME CHANGE FOR SPEECH AND HEARING SCIENCE*

**PROGRAM OF STUDY:**

The department also proposes a change in the name of the program of study that accurately reflects the curriculum. Currently, the department offers Bachelor of Science (B.S.), Master of Arts (M.A.), Doctor of Audiology (Au.D.), and Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. The department proposes to change the name of the program of study to reflect the new department name, as well as the following revisions:

Major: Speech, Hearing, and Language Sciences  
Degrees offered: B.S., M.A., Au.D., Ph.D.