



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

TITLE: Change the name of the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change.

SPONSOR: Craig Lundstrom, Professor and Head, Department of Geology, LAS, 244-6293, lundstro@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT: Stephen R. Downie, Interim Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy, LAS, 333-1275

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Department of Geology seeks to change its name to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change. This change will not affect any program requirements.

JUSTIFICATION: After extensive discussions, faculty in the Department of Geology voted on October 20, 2021 to change the name of the department to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change. The name change has the following goals in mind:

- Improving undergraduate students' ability to identify the department's focus
- Highlighting the centrality of environmental research and teaching in the department
- Aligning the department with a nationwide transition away from the name "Geology"
- Improving accuracy and recognizability of name for all members of campus

Rationale of discarding the name Geology:

Peer departments at other universities around the Big Ten and nationally responded to changes in the field by dropping the name "Geology" starting more than twenty years ago. At present only a few departments nationwide retain the name. Indeed, since 2012, no other Big Ten department has used this name. As a result, our continued use of it signals to colleagues and prospective graduate students that our department lags behind in its vision. The department's external review committee (Fall, 2019) suggested "reconsideration of the department name" as a strategic goal.

A second rationale is that the name Geology has limited meaning with incoming undergraduate students. Because high schools in the state do not offer Geology courses, many students do not know what Geology is. Indeed, few first-year students enter UIUC declaring themselves as Geology majors. Instead, most of our majors discover the department's degree programs by taking one of our general education courses, by word of mouth, or by connecting their pre-UIUC interest in environmental science with a realization of the things we work on. Because many of our students discover their passion for our science late in their UIUC career, it is clear to us that alerting these students to our science earlier in their time at UIUC is critical.

The replacement of Geology with Earth Science and Environmental Change:

Members of the UIUC community do not readily connect Geology to the actual mission of our department; in contrast, “Earth Science” encompass both the breadth and scientific nature of our work. Indeed, some high school students have had “Earth Science” or “Environmental Science” courses that align well with the Department of Geology’s mission—however, they do not connect these popular courses to Geology. Moreover, many high schools do not have the resources to even offer Earth Science or Environmental Science courses—thus, disadvantaged students are even less likely to know what Geology is. We have evidence that many students are not even aware of what Geology is as a science nor do they know that the department encompasses this breadth of topics related to the Earth. In contrast, most Illinois students recognize what Earth Science is, as it is part of the Illinois middle school science curriculum.

We feel “Environment” is a very important part of our name both because it encompasses a large part of our work and because it is readily identifiable as a relevant topic by students. Currently, the largest area of employment of our students is environmental geoscience, with consistent employment opportunities in private-sector environmental consulting and related government agencies. The American Geosciences Institute publishes geoscience workforce-related trends at <https://www.americangeosciences.org/workforce>. While oil and gas exploration continues to employ a large fraction of geoscientists, hiring has been very weak in recent years and some of the department’s alumni in that industry believe that the brisk hiring of geologists seen in past oil and gas “boom” cycles will never return. In contrast, environment-related jobs have grown consistently over the past few decades and the future appears to portend continued growth.

Our department is poised to play an important role in environmental geoscience in the years to come. Current faculty contribute strongly to environmental research on topics ranging from global climate change to groundwater contamination. This mirrors many peer university departments in the Big Ten. More than half of the UIUC Geology faculty engage in research related to water contamination, global climate change and biogeochemical cycles, risks to the world’s major rivers, or threats to coral reefs. Expertise in sedimentary processes, petrology, geochemistry, sediment analysis, groundwater migration, earth history, and biogeochemical cycles combine to address major questions related to environmental challenges in the modern world, including the past history of environmental change on earth and the operation of earth systems that determine our environmental future. The department’s 2019 external review suggested that the department “be assertive and visible in Environmental Sciences (broadly defined) within and beyond SESE. A department name change might help...”

Finally, as impacts of environmental transformation on society becomes more and more apparent, we aim to emphasize the dynamic nature of our science through the use of the word “Change”. Given the department’s need to connect with a larger and more diverse segment of the undergraduate population and its desire to have a name that communicates the department’s current activities, we wish to separate ourselves from the name Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, the most common name within the Big Ten. Because “Earth” and “Environment” are both key words that will resonate with undergraduate students, we see the use of Environmental Change as positioning ourselves at the front of a societal wave of concern toward our changing planet. Given the configuration of our campus, there is some concern that “Environmental Sciences” alone is overly broad (e.g., it seems to encompass ecology and atmospheric science). Our proposed name, “Earth Sciences and Environmental Change” invokes the study of earth’s history, a fundamental focus in the department, and the future of impacts of dynamic processes, both anthropogenic and natural.

We were concerned that the use of Environmental Change could be perceived as threatening to long established parts of geology such as fossil fuel exploration. However, when we posed the potential name to our alumni board, which is dominated by oil and gas industry alumni, we heard overwhelming positive support for the name. Thus, we feel confident that a change to Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change will positively impact our public relations image from prospective undergraduate students up to multi-decade alumni.

We have found some resistance to our proposed change from the Department of Natural Resources & Environmental Sciences (NRES) in the College of ACES. It is important to note upfront that our School (SESE; School of Earth, Society & Environment) also encountered considerable resistance from NRES in proposing to use “Environment” in its name when it started in 2008. In the case here, NRES Dept. Head Prof. Robert Schooley responded that their department did not like us using the word “change” as the phrase Environmental Change overlapped with things they do. Instead they suggested we use the name “Earth Science and Environmental Geoscience.” We thought this suggested name was redundant and implausible. We further argued that if we used “Earth and Environmental Sciences” (the most common name among Big Ten Geo-departments), we would more completely overlap with NRES.

I wrote an email to Prof. Schooley stating: “We would like to use “Change” for a variety of reasons including the reason of differentiating our departments. It also separates us from many Earth and Environmental Sciences and gives a more progressive looking view of our science. Different departments will have different views of what Environmental Change encompasses as you described in your view. We have a strong interest/set of faculty in climate change which in our minds is the defining environmental change of our society. (As an aside, we know it is politically impossible to have Climate Change within our name). We have a number of other researchers who encompasses issues of water availability and quality that also clearly fit in “Environmental Change.” We feel this is the name that encompasses the traditional field of geology (Earth Science) and broadcasts our strong faculty presence working on Environmental Change.” I then spoke at length with Prof. Schooley by phone in December telling him that using Environmental Change would better distinguish us from NRES. I tried to gather all of their arguments against—which still appear to come back to us encroaching on their claim to environmental work on campus. I promised Prof. Schooley that I would have a faculty meeting discussion of this issue, which my department did in January, 2022. My faculty strongly supported sticking to this name.

During the spring semester during the time I obtained the positive letters for our name change (attached below), I emailed Prof. Schooley and ACES Dean Germán Bollero to inform them about our departments intentions to go forward with the proposed name. I received the reply below from Dean Bollero (who again referenced their alternative suggestion of Department of Earth Science and Environmental Geoscience).

“Dear Craig,

As Bob pointed out in his email, we appreciate you keeping us informed. We respect the decision of your Faculty, and we have a different opinion on the name. In previous emails and to find common ground, Bob has offered alternatives that we will be supportive of. We will oppose the name change as it stands right now. Again, we understand the motivation and respect your decision.

Best regards,

GB

GERMÁN A BOLLERO

Professor and Interim Dean”

In summary, while there is resistance from one entity on campus, the overwhelmingly positive response by all but one campus stakeholder, as well as positive feedback from alumni, students, faculty, and staff, leads us to the opinion that we have a strong case for changing our name to Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

The change in Department name will not require additional staffing or expenditures.

- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?

The change in Department name will be able to support all existing programs and functions and will not need to create additional capacity or surplus.

- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

The only anticipated costs are those related to revising promotion materials (website, digital letterhead, etc.). These costs will be covered with the current operating budget and we will not need additional support from campus.

- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

No financial arrangements are needed.

2) Resource Implications

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

The name change will not require any internal reallocation of resources. It will also not result in changes to class size, teaching loads, or student faculty ratio. The Department is a graduate program only, all undergraduate teaching is administered at the School level.

- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.

The name change will not involve changes in class size, teaching loads or student faculty ratios. The name change will also not affect course enrollments in other units. See attached letters of support for further information.

c. Please address the impact on the University Library

There is no anticipated impact on the University Library. A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian is attached.

d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

There is no anticipated impact of the name change on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2022

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG: Name of Department in catalog should be: Earth Science and Environmental Change

CLEARANCES:

Signatures:



Unit Representative:

3/31/22

Date:



School Representative:

3/31/22

Date:



College Representative:

4/22/2022

Date:



Graduate College Representative:

5/2/2022

Date:

Council on Teacher Education Representative:

_ Date:



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

2090 Lincoln Hall, MC-448
702 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801

April 22, 2022

Kathy Martensen

Associate Provost for Educational Programs and Success Initiatives

Office of the Provost

207 Swanlund Administration Building, MC-304

Dear Kathy,

The College of Liberal Arts & Sciences has voted upon and approved the following proposal:

Change the name of the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change

The proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'S. Downie'.

Stephen R. Downie

Interim Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy, LAS

sdownie@illinois.edu



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

School of Earth, Society, & Environment Administration
3081 Natural History Building, MC-103
1301 W. Green St.
Urbana, IL 61801

March 28, 2022

To: Craig Lundstrom, Head, Department of Geology
From: Bob Rauber, Director of the School of Earth, Society and Environment
Re: Name Change of the Department of Geology

Dear Craig:

I am writing to give the full support of the School of Earth, Society and Environment to the name change of the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change. A name change was recommended by the Department external reviews, and is in line with the current research and courses within the Department. I also believe the name change will attract more undergraduates and graduate students to the Department, as well as help with future recruitment of faculty.

Good luck with moving the request for a name change through the administrative reviews at the University.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Rauber'.

Bob Rauber
Professor of Atmospheric Sciences
Director, School of Earth, Society, and Environment

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

217.244.4064 • earth.illinois.edu



**Institute for Sustainability, Energy,
and Environment (iSEE)**
1101 W. Peabody Drive (NSRC), Suite 350
MC-635
Urbana, IL 61801

March 15, 2022

Dr. Craig Campbell Lundstrom
Head, Dept of Geology
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

Dear Craig,

I support the Department's plans to change the name of the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Sciences and Environmental Change. I believe that this is timely and appropriate given the breadth and scientific nature of the work being done in the department and for improving recognition and identification of the focus areas in the department by students and external stakeholders. I appreciate the thought that has gone into selecting the new name for the department so that it represents the current focus of the research and teaching in the department.

I look forward to opportunities for greater collaboration between your department and iSEE.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Madhu Khanna'.

Madhu Khanna
Pronouns: she, her
ACES Distinguished Professor in Environmental Economics
Interim Director, Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment
Co-Director, Center for Economics of Sustainability
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign



College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

School of Integrative Biology
286 Morrill Hall, MC-120
505 S. Goodwin Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801-3795

7 March 2022

Craig Lundstrom
Department Head, Dept of Geology
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
1301 W Green St, NHB
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Craig,

The School of Integrative Biology supports your proposal to change the name of the department from Geology to Earth Science and Environmental Change. The change is aligned with the move by peer institutions to move away from "Geology" as a department name, and the fact that since 2012, no other Big Ten department has used this name. We are excited by the department's desire to highlight the centrality of environmental research and teaching and we would welcome a greater focus on biogeochemical cycling as well as past and future environmental change. These are societally important topics that complement strengths in our research and teaching programs and could be the basis for new synergies between our departments in the future.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Carla E. Cáceres in black ink.

Carla E. Cáceres
G. William Arends Professor and Director, School of Integrative Biology

Handwritten signature of May R. Berenbaum in black ink.

May R. Berenbaum
Swanlund Professor and Head, Department of Entomology

Handwritten signature of Andrew D.B. Leakey in black ink.

Andrew D.B. Leakey
Professor and Head, Department of Plant Biology

Handwritten signature of Andrew Suarez in black ink.

Andrew Suarez
Jeffrey S. Elowe Professor of Integrative Biology
Professor and Head, Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior

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217.383.3044 • sib.illinois.edu



Prairie Research Institute
615 E. Peabody Drive, MC-650
Champaign, IL 61820

March 3, 2022

Craig Lundstrom, Head
Department of Geology
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
1301 W. Green St., NHB
Urbana, IL 61801

Dr. Professor Lundstrom,

I am writing to express my support for your proposal to the Faculty Senate to change the name of your department to the Department of Earth Sciences and Environmental Change. As you know, the Prairie Research Institute is home to the Illinois State Geological Survey, which has a long-standing close and collaborative relationship with your department. The proposed name change reflects a broader earth sciences perspective and incorporates the dynamic nature of earth and the study of its physical and chemical processes. A more broadly descriptive name better advertises the breadth and depth of the teaching, research, and engagement missions of your work to prospective students, collaborators, and stakeholders.

You have made an excellent choice for a new department name, and I wish you success with this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Stein'.

Jeffrey A. Stein, Ph.D.
Interim Executive Director

Cc: Dean Venetria Patton, LAS



PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Illinois State Geological Survey
615 E. Peabody Drive, MC-650
Champaign, IL 61820-6918

February 28, 2022

Craig Lundstrom
Department Head, Dept of Geology
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
1301 W Green St, NHB
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Dr. Lundstrom,

I am writing to express my support of the University of Illinois Department of Geology's intention to change its name to the Department of Earth Sciences and Environmental Change. This follows the trend of numerous formerly named Geology Departments from many universities. The name change to "Earth Sciences" connects more closely to the fact that Geology has always been a "systems science" with interdependent parts, obviously connected to land forming tectonic/volcanic forces, but also totally "at the mercy" of erosion and deposition from water and wind, and weathering also takes its toll on the landscape. It reflects a broader science perspective and incorporates the looming issue of environmental change, and not only environmental consequences of climate change, but also those that are independent of climate change scenarios as well. Even when climate is relatively static, the environment still changes, and it will continue to do so depending on the degree of human interaction with the land and its waters.

I also think that Geology is viewed by many outside of the science as primarily dealing just with rocks, volcanoes, earthquakes, and fossils. An issue remains that K-12 and community college students suffer from an overall lack of exposure to the science until they arrive at a four-year school, and then for the most part, their minds have already been made as to their career path, and sometimes they "stumble" into a geology class and discover a career. Broadening its name, thereby expands its scope, and most importantly better advertises the science to prospective students by increasing its understandability and applicability to solve a multitude of societal issues that can prepare them for productive careers not only in academia, but also in industry.

Again, I strongly support the name change.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Berg, Ph.D.
State Geologist and Director
Illinois State Geological Survey

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
217.333.4747 • isgs.illinois.edu



UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

Juanita J. & Robert E. Simpson
Dean of Libraries & University Librarian
230 Main Library, MC-522
1408 W. Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801

April 4, 2022

Craig Lundstrom
Department Head, Dept of Geology
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
1301 W Green St, NHB
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Professor Lundstrom,

Thank you for your recent communication regarding the name change for your department from the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change. This change will have no impact on University Library activities, including research support and collections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John P. Wilkin'.

John P. Wilkin
Dean, University Library
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
217.333.0790

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Comments and Recommendations from the Committee on Educational Policy
on proposal EP.23.015, Change the Name of the Department of Geology to the
Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change

SUMMARY NOTES OF COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

The Committee on Educational Policy appreciates the amount of communication that has taken place between the Department of Geology and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES). There have been multiple meetings and online communication that involved Geology and NRES department chairs, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (LAS) administration, and even a meeting mediated by a third-party faculty member from The Grainger College of Engineering. All parties agree the conversation has come to an impasse. NRES continues to object to Geology changing its name to Earth Science and Environmental Change.

The name change has not been a rash decision for the Department of Geology. The department began conversation about seven years ago; more serious discussion commenced when the department was going through a recent external review. A 2019 External Reviewer Report recommended the Department of Geology consider a name change as part of an effort to “be assertive and visible in Environmental Sciences within and beyond SESE [School of Earth, Society & Environment].” The external review specifically pointed out the importance of environmental change, saying “Enhancing the awareness of the contributions of geosciences to understanding environmental changes and associated sustainability efforts is essential to attract significantly larger numbers of majors.” Geology held multiple conversations with faculty, including conversations with alumni. Currently, only two of the fourteen schools in the Big Ten use Geology in their department names as most Research 1 institutions changed from the name Geology over a decade ago.

The Committee on Educational Policy surmises the word “environmental” is likely the problem in this impasse. Notably, the Department of Geology currently offers a concentration in “Earth and Environmental Sciences” in the BSLAS in Geology, and thus the word “environmental” is already a part of its curricula. Geology also offers a MS in Environmental Geology. Currently, there are over 20 majors, minors, and/or concentrations with the word “environmental” in the program title from units such as NRES and other departments within the College of ACES, The Grainger College of Engineering, the Department of Chemistry, the School of Earth, Society & Environment, and the Department of Geology.

Further discussion centered on concern that prospective students will be confused by the proposed departmental name of Earth Science and Environmental Change with the existing Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences. Indeed, increasing visibility to prospective students is one of Geology’s stated goals. The Committee recommends Geology and NRES work together to

differentiate their departments and programs through text and visual content in their social media marketing and unit websites. They can even compare and contrast their two units in their marketing. The more they highlight the uniqueness of each unit, the better the chance prospective students will understand the differences between the two. The committee observed that the conflict between the units' programs exists and will continue to exist because the two units explore similar questions from different but overlapping perspectives. This is true with or without a name change, highlighting the need for the units to work to clarify and distinguish their programs to prospective students.

The Committee on Educational Policy viewed additional communication from both Geology and NRES, and communication from the third party from The Grainger College of Engineering, Jonathan Makela, Associate Dean of Undergraduate programs (see proposal attachments). The Committee discussed this proposal in two different meetings and were witness to the comments, questions, and discussion that took place in the public hearing. In the end, the Committee supported the Department of Geology's proposal to change its name to Earth Science and Environmental Change. However, the committee also supported the idea that the proposal should be placed on the University Senate's regular agenda so that the full body would have an opportunity to weigh in on this question.

The vote to approve EP.23.015 was unanimous. The proposal will be sent to the University Senate for inclusion on the regular agenda for the December 5, 2022 University Senate meeting.

Current Big Ten School Department Names which correspond to "Geology"

Iowa	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Michigan	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Michigan State*	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Minnesota*	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Nebraska*	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Indiana	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Purdue*	Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences
Northwestern	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Rutgers*	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Ohio State*	School of Earth Sciences
Wisconsin*	Geoscience
Penn State*	Geosciences
Maryland*	Geology
Illinois*	Geology

Asterisks (*) denote Land Grant Universities. A quick review of the departments in the agriculture colleges at these universities reveals that many do not have departments with names similar to NRES. Some of the colleges have "natural resources" in their names. Nebraska has programs in Natural Resource Sciences. Purdue has Natural Resources and Environmental Science. Rutgers has Environmental Sciences. Ohio State has a School of Environment and Natural Resources. Maryland has Environmental Science and Technology.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

Minutes of the November 28, 2022 Public Hearing on Proposal EP.23.015
to Change the Name of the Department of Geology to the
Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change

PUBLIC HEARING

As per Section 8, C. 4 of its Bylaws, on November 28, 2022 at 1:30 pm the Senate Committee on Educational Policy held a public hearing via Zoom on the proposal to change the name of the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change (EP.23.015). Notice of this public hearing was announced to the University Senate on November 14 and published through the Illinois Faculty/Staff Notices 11/20/2022 (E WEEK) online bulletin. The committee also sent emails to parties who were known to have taken an interest in the proposal. There were 41 virtual participants logged into the Zoom meeting at the time of the public hearing. Nolan Miller, the Educational Policy subcommittee chair assigned to this proposal, gave a background summary of the proposal itself and of relevant activities up to the time of the public hearing. Linda Moorhouse, Senate Education Policy Committee Chair, facilitated the discussion.

Miller's overview of the of the proposal and subsequent communication with the Department of Geology revealed that at this time there is one unit on campus that has expressed opposition to the name change. That unit is the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Science (NRES) in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES). NRES's position is supported by the college of ACES. NRES believes "Earth Science and Environmental Change" is too close to its name and, among other stated reasons, feels this change will confuse potential students who may select the wrong major.

- Brianna Gregg, Assistant Dean, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, clarified a point in Miller's summary, stating that undergraduate students first apply to the major itself rather than selecting a college, and then choosing a major within that college. Andy Borst, Director, Office of Undergraduate Admissions, gave a brief overview of the process students follow when selecting majors. On the application, students do choose the college first, then the major.
- Robert Schooley, Head, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, noted he believes the proposed name is too similar to other department names on campus, including his own, and he opposes the name change.
- Craig Lundstrom, Head, Department of Geology, stated that our university's Department of Geology is one of only two departments in the Big Ten Conference currently named

“Geology.” He explained, that for the new name, the department purposely did not choose a more common name used at Big Ten institutions; he feels that the proposed name is distinctive, and more importantly, it better represents the research activities and initiatives of the department, faculty, and curricula. [A full justification for why geology chose this name is included in its proposal (EP.23.015)].

- Susan Helmink, Advising Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, asked Lundstrom why “Geosciences,” one of the names used by Big Ten peers, doesn’t resonate with them. Lundstrom replied that it is a common name and one that was considered, but the departmental faculty felt the inclusion of the word “environment” was important to the connection to work that is done within the department. In particular, “Earth Science” includes deep Earth and “Environmental Change” connects to current work in environment.
- Gregg asked if there were going to be any changes to the names of current programs (majors) within the department, and if so, what the timeline for such changes would be. Lundstrom noted that the department is currently undergoing curriculum review changes, and that discussion has included the possibility of changing some program names. The department is focused on its name change at the present time.
- Ashli Anda, graduate student, Department of Philosophy, asked if there was discussion about branding to help prospective students better understand what the different departments (Geology and NRES) offer on their department websites. Anda also spoke about student culture and the importance that acronym identification can make with branding, e.g., “NRES.”
- Michael Nowak, teaching assistant professor, Department of Computer Science, asked why our university [Department of Geology] is not following suit with the most common names that Big Ten schools are using for “geology” (Earth and Environmental Sciences), as that is what prospective students may be looking for. Lundstrom replied that they didn’t choose Earth and Environmental Sciences as to avoid overlap on campus; in addition, it is very close to Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences.
- Gregg asked how many of the Big Ten schools using the word “environmental” are land grant institutions that have an agriculture program. Lundstrom was not able to provide an answer off the top of his head but said he could send follow up information if needed. [The Committee on Educational Policy provides some information in response to this question at the end of its summary notes, which are attached to proposal EP.23.015 (Attachment #1).]
- Schooley noted that although it is true that this is not the only instance of units or programs with similar names on campus, their existence does not justify creating another conflict. This is the time to avoid making the mistake of creating new confusion for students.

When no questions or comments were forthcoming from those in attendance, Moorhouse thanked everyone for their comments and discussion and ended the public hearing at 1:56 pm.



COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences
W-503 Turner Hall, MC-047
1102 S. Goodwin Ave.
Urbana, IL 61801-4730

Dr. Nolan H. Miller
Subcommittee Chair, Senate Education Policy Committee

October 28, 2022

Dear Dr. Miller:

I appreciate the opportunity to present the concerns from the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) and the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences about the proposed name change for the Department of Geology. These concerns are shared by the NRES Faculty Advisory Committee and by college leadership including Anna Ball, Associate Dean of Academic Programs; and German Bollero, Interim Dean. We understand the reasons for moving on from “Geology” with a department name that will resonate better with high school students. Likewise, we recognize the rationale for a marketing strategy to recruit undergraduates with interests in the environment.

However, we think the proposed department name is too similar to NRES, and it would create issues for prospective students trying to decide whether to attend the University of Illinois and in which department to enroll. In our view, the two department names would be difficult to distinguish for prospective students:

Earth Sciences and Environmental Change
Natural Resources and Environmental Science

High school seniors are unlikely to understand the nuances that differentiate these two department names. Such confusion would not benefit the university overall in terms of clearly articulating options to prospective students and successfully recruiting them to campus (i.e., growing the pie instead of slicing it differently).

Moreover, our experience is that department names do matter for recruitment and placement of students in appropriate units to meet their career goals. For example, we identify undergraduates every year who are majoring in Animal Sciences (mostly domesticated animals) who are really interested in wildlife conservation. They select Animal Sciences because “animal” is in the department name, and do not dig deep enough to locate the NRES concentration in Fish, Wildlife, and Conservation Biology that is best suited for them. Current efforts at the college level are helping to resolve this issue to the benefit of students. Similar efforts are less likely to occur across colleges when students with environmental interests end up in the wrong department for them.

I want to stress that NRES and ACES do not claim ownership of the term “Environmental.” This point has been misconstrued during the proposal review process. In fact, when the Department of Geology first contacted us about the proposed name change, I suggested that I would be much more comfortable

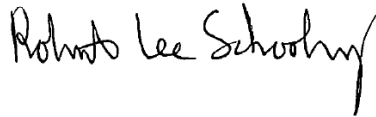
with a name that included “Environmental Geosciences.” That phrase was used repeatedly by Professor Craig Lundstrom, Head of Geology, in describing one focus of their department (email from October 29, 2021). In my opinion, Environmental Geosciences would be a more accurate description for the unit that also would be more distinctive to prospective students.

When “Environmental Geosciences” did not gain any traction, I suggested another option during a meeting on September 27, 2022, in attempt to reach a compromise: “Earth Sciences and Global Change.” That option would still have overlap with NRES, but less so than for the proposed name, and could evoke a key element of Geology (e.g., large spatial and temporal scales) that is partly distinct from NRES. This suggestion was again interpreted by the Geology department as NRES being territorial over the word “Environmental” because it was not in the suggested title.

Throughout the discussions, the Geology Department has seemed set on the proposed name of Earth Science and Environmental Change and has not been receptive to alternatives. This unwillingness to budge is surprising given that their own marketing survey of freshmen in Geology courses did not show any strong preference for the proposed name over four other options presented (email from C. Lundstrom on October 29, 2021).

In sum, we have tried to reach an agreement without success. As such, we remain opposed to the proposed name change of the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Sciences and Environmental Change. We think it is not in the best interest of prospective students, NRES, or the university.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Lee Schooley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

Robert L. Schooley
Professor and Head

Dear Prof. Miller and committee

You have asked for a response to the NRES statements regarding the Dept of Geology name change. I would like to make 3 points to counter Prof. Schooley's letter.

1. There are many units and educational programs on campus with overlapping/similar names. This is an issue that is dealt with successfully every day and there is no reason to think that it can't be done in this case.
2. While confusion on the part of prospective students is a potential concern, there is no reason to think it is likely to be more serious in this case than in others.
3. We are willing to work with NRES and other units to ensure any potential confusion over the two departments and their programs is addressed. We have spent years considering the name change and have discussed the specific objections raised by NRES, and we continue to believe that Earth Science and Environmental Change best captures our department's mission.

To clarify 2 points in Prof Schooley's statement:

- 1) he did suggest "Environmental Geosciences" but only as part of the name "Dept of Earth Science and Environmental Geosciences." This was not deemed a viable name given the redundancy. We need to have two parts to our name as we want to maintain a hold on areas that reflect deep Earth aspects of our science (hence the first part, Earth Sciences). Remember this name from NRES was a suggested solution to Schooley's original request that we do not use "Change" in our name.
- 2) During the late September meeting seeking a compromise solution, NRES suggested we use "Global Change" instead of Environmental Change suggesting the problem at the heart of the dispute is about the use of Environmental. There are many entities having environment in their name on this campus and as NRES has rightly stated they do not have a monopoly on its use.

Prof. Schooley implies we have been "unwilling to budge." I disagree—we have discussed and considered their suggestions as this controversy has been going on. However, none of the names NRES has suggested are viable or preferable to what we have thoughtfully chosen over a multi-year period. It is unfortunate for the University that this name changing has caused this conflict but we strongly feel we have done our due diligence in the naming process and deserve the ability to use the name we have chosen.

I hope this helps you. I would be happy to answer or respond to any further queries of the committee.

Thanks,
Craig Lundstrom
Head, Dept of Geology

Makela's summary of Geology/NRES meeting

Wed 10/12/2022 8:21 AM

Dear Linda,

Below is the email prepared by Jonathan Makela (Engineering) regarding the meeting between ACES/NRES and LAS/Geology to change the name of the Department of Geology to the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change. The sending of this email to you has been approved by Jonathan and Deans Patton and Bollero.

If you need anything more from me, please let me know.

Cheers,

Stephen

From: Makela, Jonathan <jmakela@illinois.edu>

Sent: Friday, September 30, 2022 9:39 AM

To: Bollero, German A <gbollero@illinois.edu>; Patton, Venetria <ykpatton@illinois.edu>

Subject: Re: Request from LAS/ACES

Dear Dean Patton and Dean Bollero,

I wanted to touch base with the two of you after the meeting that was held between Geology (Craig Lundstrom), NRES (Bob Schooley), LAS (Stephen Downey), ACES (Anna Ball), and myself on Tuesday afternoon. I wish I was able to report that some resolution, or even some positive movement, was achieved, but I am unable to do so.

Geology seems to be taking the stance that they have discussed this name change at length and gained general support from many entities across campus and NRES is the only entity objecting (although I understand the objection is supported at the college level). The philosophical objection articulated by NRES (both in the documentation provided ahead of the meeting and at the meeting) centered around the faculty research areas encapsulated by the "Global Environmental Change" group. Geology has a similar group of faculty under a labeling of "Global Change & Paleoclimate", so there is already some existing conflict.

Much of the discussion centered around anticipated impacts on IUs, majors, and budgets (and, to be honest, this appears to be the crux of the conflict). This was one of the stated goals of the name change from Geology (e.g., to have a more "modern" name that was attractive to students). It was also one of the stated concerns from NRES (that students wouldn't be able to discern the nuance between the "environmental change" in the proposed rename of Geology and that in NRES).

Multiple times, the objection to the naming of SESE was brought up (in that NRES objected at the time to the use of “Environment” in the school’s name), however it was stated in this week’s meeting that the objection was to “Environmental Change” as a phrase in conflict with the work done in the Global Environmental Change research area within NRES. Thus, I was a bit surprised that the only compromise proposed by NRES was a renaming of Geology to “Earth Science and Global Change” (surprising, as “Earth Science and Global Change” would seem to overlap as much with “Global and Environmental Change” as “Earth Science and Environmental Change”). While Associate Dean Downey encouraged Geology to consider this in the spirit of compromise, heels had been dug in by that point of the conversation, unfortunately, and it did not appear Geology was open to the idea.

From my standpoint, I’ll offer three observations:

- Names certainly matter and we should, collectively, make sure that department and program names are decodable and distinguishable by internal and external constituents. Conflicts certainly will arise, as in this case. However, I think it is challenging when one department’s internal organization (only vetted through the department’s faculty) on naming research concentrations is asserted to a priori take precedence over another department’s proposed external organization (being vetted through a larger faculty governance process). I must admit, I am perplexed by the NRES-proposed name of “Earth Science and Global Change” as it appears to be in as much conflict with the NRES research area of “Global and Environmental Change” as “Earth Science and Environmental Change”. I can only conclude, then, that the concern is over the use of the word “environment”.
- In terms of decodability to external audiences, especially prospective students (which was a stated concern), I think degree-program names and courses are more pertinent than departmental names. For example, on the admissions website, which is a primary portal for high schoolers and their parents to learn about options, degree program names are listed (<https://myillini.illinois.edu/Programs>), rather than departments. I note that there are four programs listed with the word “environment” (Earth, Society, and Environmental Sustainability, Environmental Economics & Policy, Metropolitan Food and Environmental Systems, and Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences). If one looks at the complete list of undergraduate programs offered (<http://catalog.illinois.edu/undergraduate/>), “environment” shows up in 13 undergraduate degree programs (including one BS degree offered out of Geology already). So, in this sense, “ownership” of the word “environment” is already spread across campus. On neither of these pages is the phrase “environmental change” used.

From a course standpoint, a search of the course catalog (<https://courses.illinois.edu>) for Spring and Fall 2022 for the term “environmental change” yields 10 courses (ENGL 396, FIN 490, FIN 590, GEOL 100, GIS 412, IB 108, IB 452, NRES 287, NRES 598, and SOC 447), none of which use the term in the title (rather, it is used in the course description). On the other hand, a search for “global change” also yields 10 courses (ATMS/ESE 140, ATMS 449, CPSC/NRES 431, ESE 320, GEOG 103, GEOL 380, IB 361, IB 531, IS 490, NRES 499), two of

which actually use the term “Global Change” in the course title. Again, those terms are already out there and shared across a wide swath of disciplines.

- This conflict aside, I certainly see an opportunity here for Illinois to increase its leadership in teaching the next generation about the importance of the environment, sustainability, and climate change. As I was looking through various websites to come up to speed ahead of this discussion, I was encouraged to see the wealth of courses spread across the campus on these topics, taught through a variety of lenses. Much like the CS+X and X+DS frameworks, I see this as a real opportunity to go after something akin to X + Environmental Science, where a shared set of courses in environmental science is spread across departments like Atmospheric Sciences, Geology (or whatever it is renamed to), and NRES as well as other entities (such as SESE) and then put into context within a discipline, whether that is sustainability engineering, public policy, financial systems, etc. To some extent, this may be what the Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment is working towards, but I still think a bold, collaborative initiative such as X+ES would do a lot more to tap into the growing demand for environmental sciences by today’s youth than would be achieved by renaming departments.

I hope there is at least some useful information in the long email, above. I am happy to attend another meeting between the involved parties, if you think doing so would be productive, or to meet with the two of you to elaborate on the above.

Regards,
Jonathan

JONATHAN J. MAKELA

Associate Dean for Undergraduate Programs, The Grainger College of Engineering
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Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act any written communication to or from university employees regarding university business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

From: Bollero, German A <gbollero@illinois.edu>

Date: Tuesday, September 6, 2022 at 11:58 AM

To: Makela, Jonathan <jmakela@illinois.edu>

Cc: Patton, Venetria <vkpatton@illinois.edu>, Ando, Matthew A <mando@illinois.edu>,

Ball, Anna Leigh <aball@illinois.edu>

Subject: Request from LAS/ACES

Dear Jonathan,

I am contacting you to ask for your help in resolving an issue involving the Department of Geology (LAS) and the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (ACES). In a nutshell, the department of Geology has proposed a name change to "Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change." The department of NRES is concerned about the Environmental Change portion of the name, while Geology feels that Earth Science narrows the scope of Environmental Change. Specifically, NRES is concerned with the word "Change" since it overlaps with many of their programs. I am attaching a string of emails with the entire conversation for your background. Dean Venetria Patton (cc'd) and I agreed that a committee with representatives from ACES and LAS plus an outside member would help resolve this issue. The charge will be to come up with an agreeable department name for Geology. We have asked Craig Lundstrom (Head of Geology), Bob Schooley (Head of NRES), Associate Dean Matt Ando (LAS), and Associate Dean Anna Ball (ACES) to serve on this committee. Venetria and I feel that your contributions as an outside member will help immensely if you agree to serve.

Please, let us know. Thank you and best regards,

GB

GERMÁN A BOLLERO

Professor and Interim Dean

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Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act any written communication to or from university employees regarding university business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

To: Linda Moorhouse, Educational Policy Committee Chair
From: Stephen R. Downie, Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy, LAS
Date: October 14, 2022

Re: Response of Prof. Craig Lundstrom, Geology Head, to information requested by L. Moorhouse regarding Geology's proposal to change their departmental name

1) *Provide a time scale of events, including when the name change topic was first brought to the department's attention and what was done before and after the LAS Executive Committee voted to approve.*

Discussion of the Geology name change started under the administration of Dr. Tom Johnson. It is a bit difficult to specify the origin but it was at least 7 years ago. It was an active topic of discussion at the time of our external review in 2017—we discussed the reviewers' ideas and this name change was one of their 3 main recommendations. In 2018-2020, discussions were held in faculty meetings and through email exchanges about the possible names. We polled students in our 100 level classes (fall of 2020) for their opinions and raised the name change during our alumni board meeting in spring of 2021.

In fall 2021, I became head and there was a push from faculty to make the name change happen. We used a rank choice voting method where each faculty ranked their top 5 choices (5 best to 1 least) of 11 name options. The top choice was Dept of Earth Sciences and Environmental Change (ESEC). The second most popular was Dept of Geosciences and Environmental Change (GEC). Third was Earth and Environmental Sciences (EES).

Fall 2021—Having this information we decided to move forward and I contacted stakeholders on campus about this (the letters attached to the proposal show all those I contacted except NRES/ACES). I received email replies from all entities during the fall of 2021 and had a special call/Zoom with Prof Schooley in December discussing their reservations.

Early spring 2022—I solicited and received letters during the spring 2022 from all stakeholders. I had another exchange with Prof Schooley—he and Dean Bollero had discussed they would not provide support—it was not clear if they intended to actually oppose our name change at this point.

April 2022—I submitted to Assoc Dean Downie our proposal with letters for review. He asked that I add some of the information about the NRES interactions so that the LAS Exec committee knew about this.

April 2022—The proposal was voted on positively to move forward by LAS Exec committee, with the request that the interactions between NRES/ACES and Geology be more fully described.

June 2022—I heard from Assoc Dean Ando that Dean Bollero had gone to Dean Patton raising issues with the Geology Dept Name change proposal.

Oct 2022—At the request of Deans Bollero and Patton, a meeting with NRES/ACES and Geology/LAS, and Prof Makela (Engineering) appointed by both Deans as an outside member, occurred. A summary document was prepared by Prof Makela and forwarded to both Deans.

2) Describe votes taken by Geology to approve the name change. For each vote, include number of people in unit, number of people who voted, and the vote breakdown.

When I became head in fall of 2021, I made this a priority item. We had a meeting where we discussed the names. We then did the rank choice voting by faculty emailing their rankings to Prof. W. Guenther who tallied them. There were 17 voting members. The vote was 46 ranked votes for ESEC, 43 votes for GEC, and 39 for EES. We then had another faculty meeting where results were discussed and agreement made to proceed forward with Dept of Earth Sciences and Environmental Change. Important points—we do want Environment in the name (as indicated by the top 3 choices) and we feel EES is more common with already 4 departments in the Big Ten having this name.

3) Provide more information on the names of similar programs among our peer institutions nationally and those in the Big Ten. What universities have retained the name Geology? What universities have changed their name (and to what)?

Here is a breakdown of the names in the Big Ten:

Nebraska	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Iowa	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Minnesota	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Wisconsin	Geoscience
Northwestern	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Purdue	Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences
Indiana	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Michigan	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Michigan State	Earth and Environmental Sciences
Ohio State	School of Earth Sciences
Penn State	Geosciences
Rutgers	Earth and Planetary Sciences
Maryland	Geology

It is harder to list Department names nationally but I think this list is fairly representative. Only 2 of 14 Departments in Big Ten currently are Geology—most R1 institutions changed from the name Geology over a decade ago.

4) Provide a copy of the unit's program 2019 external review that indicates a name change be helpful to make the department more visible. Any pages or text of sensitive or non-relevant information can be omitted or redacted.

Attached. See summary of suggestions on page 7: #2 stresses both increased presence in the Environment and suggests a name change.

5) Indicate whether a change in degree name will also be initiated and if so, what that name will be.

As of right now, we have not made a decision on the names of degrees. We are revising our curriculum and discussing the different majors. Almost certainly we will maintain a degree in geology. Whether we have a major that contains the term Environmental Change is unknown. We will have a degree that contains the name Environmental.

6) A request was made to Deans Patton and Bolero asking that Prof. Makela's summary email of the recent meeting with NRES/ACES be forwarded to L. Moorhouse, as Prof. Moorhouse would like more information about what happened at this meeting.

I have seen Prof Makela's input now and I would say it was helpful for me to see his neutral perspective. As I mentioned to Assoc Dean Downie after the meeting, I was somewhat shocked by the suggestion from NRES to use the name Earth Sciences and Global Change. After all, they had complained originally that it was "change" that was the problem word and not environmental. But during this meeting with this suggestion, it became clear to me that the word environmental is the problematic one to them. We understand; we feel that our using this word in our name will help to gain more students. Ultimately, we (NRES and us) agree that this is all about IUs.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

I EEWEEK

NOTICES FOR FACULTY AND STAFF AT ILLINOIS

If you will need disability-related accommodations in order to participate, please email the contact person for the event. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

Announcements for the week of November 20, 2022

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Eweek Publishes on Nov. 27

Eweek never sleeps! The Sunday Nov. 27 issue will publish as usual with the regular preceding Friday noon deadline for submissions.

[Eweek Editors](#) • Public Affairs

Public Hearing for a name change for the Department of Geology, LAS

The Senate Committee on Educational Policy will hold a public hearing on a proposal to change the name of the Department of Geology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. This public hearing will be held on Monday, November 28 at 1:30 pm via [Zoom](#). For questions, contact Dr. Linda Moorhouse, Chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy.

November 28, 1:30 PM • [Zoom Meeting](#)

[Linda R. Moorhouse, Professor](#) • Senate Committee on Educational Policy

 This opportunity is available online.