



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Change the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science

SPONSOR: Bruce Rhoads, Professor and Head, Department of Geography, 333-1880, brhoads@illinois.edu

COLLEGE CONTACT: Steven R. Leigh, Associate Dean, 333-1350, sleigh@illinois.edu

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Department of Geography seeks to change its name to the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science. Faculty in the department voted 10-1 in favor of this name change. Faculty in the School of Earth, Society and Environment voted 24-0 in favor of this change (at a meeting on Dec. 9, 2010). Faculty in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences unanimously approved this change at the Spring Faculty Meeting (April 14, 2011).

JUSTIFICATION: The discipline of Geography has changed dramatically over the past few decades through the development of revolutionary new technologies for managing, processing and analyzing geographically distributed information. These new technologies have fuelled the development of a new field of knowledge – Geographic Information Science (GIScience). The focus of GIScience includes several knowledge domains, including spatial analytical methods, conceptual (cognitive and social) foundations of spatial information processing, geovisualization and mapping, data modeling and manipulation, geocomputational modeling, and geospatial technology and society. Moreover, GIScience is becoming a critical component of global cyberinfrastructure, leading to the rise of CyberGIS.

The Department of Geography has steadily been refocusing its mission to include research and teaching in GIScience and over the past several years has developed curricula at the undergraduate and graduate levels focusing on GIScience. Our department is at the research frontier through the work of Professor Shaowen Wang, who just received a major grant (\$4.4 million) from the National Science Foundation for a transformative initiative that will develop and integrate CyberGIS software to enable geospatial innovation. We are in the process of hiring an additional faculty member with joint expertise in GIScience and cyberinfrastructure. On the teaching front, we plan to expand our pedagogic programs to include online courses and perhaps a Professional Science Master's Program in GIScience in the near future. The visibility of GIScience has grown to the point where it is now recognized as distinctive from the rest of Geography and students interested in this field are seeking programs focusing on GIScience education. The U.S. Department of Labor has identified tremendous unmet demand in the private and public sectors for professionals trained in geospatial technology.

Renaming our department will achieve several goals: 1) it will explicitly identify us in national and international contexts as an academic program with research and pedagogic strengths in GIScience, 2) it will help us attract undergraduates and graduate students seeking to specialize in GIScience, 3) it will provide the campus with a clear leading unit in this important new area of knowledge, which has well-defined career opportunities for graduates, 4) by linking this department name change to a corresponding name change in our undergraduate major, it will provide graduating majors specializing in GIScience with a degree that by title clearly reflects their training, and 5) it will reflect the commitment of faculty in the department to sustaining and possibly growing this aspect of our program in the future. Moreover, by retaining Geography in the title we will clearly indicate to other scholars in the geographic community and beyond that we do not solely specialize in GIScience, but continue to actively pursue research and teaching in several vital areas of scholarship encompassing geographical knowledge.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed
The change in department name will not require additional staffing or major expenditures. The only anticipated costs are those related to generating new supplies (e.g. letterhead) and promotional materials (website revisions, flyers and brochures) for the department and those costs can be covered under the current operating budget.

- b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)
The name change will not involve changes in class size, teaching loads, or student-faculty ratio.

- c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments
The change will not affect course enrollment in other units.

- d. Impact on the University Library (*A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals.*)
No anticipated impact.

- e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.
No anticipated impact.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: upon approval

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG: Name of Department in catalog should be: Geography and Geographic Information Science

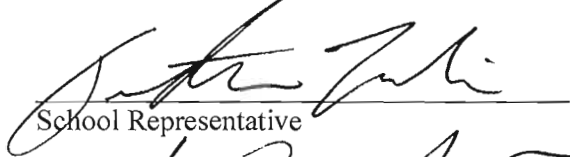
CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval) - - These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges, add lines.)

Signatures:



Unit Representative:

11/08/2010
Date:



School Representative

11/08/10.
Date:



College Representative:

8/3/11
Date:

Provost Representative:

Date:

Educational Policy Committee Representative:

Date:

**Senate Educational Policy Committee
Proposal Check Sheet**

PROPOSAL TITLE (Same as on proposal): Change the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science

PROPOSAL TYPE (Please select all that apply below):

A. Program and degree proposals

1. This proposal is for a graduate program or degree

Yes No

2. **Degree** proposal (e.g. B.S.A.E., M.S.C.E.)

New degree — please name the new degree: _____

Revision of an existing degree — please name the existing degree to be revised:

3. **Major** proposal (disciplinary focus, e.g., Mathematics)

New major — please name the new major: _____

Revision of an existing major — please name the existing major to be revised: _____

4. **Concentration** proposal (e.g. Financial Planning)

New concentration — please name the new concentration: _____

Revision of an existing concentration — please name the existing concentration to be revised: _____

5. **Minor** proposal (e.g. Cinema Studies)

New minor — please name the new minor: _____

Revision of an existing minor — please name the existing minor to be revised: _____

6. Proposal for renaming an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor

degree major concentration minor

Please provide the current name: _____

Please provide the proposed new name: _____

7. Proposal for terminating an existing degree, major, concentration, or minor

Please name the existing degree, major, concentration, or minor: _____

8. Proposal for a multi-institutional degree between Illinois (UIUC) and a foreign institution

Please name the existing Illinois degree or program: _____

Please name the partnering institution: _____

- B. Proposal for renaming existing academic units** (college, school, department, or program)

Please provide the unit's current name: Department of Geography

Please provide the unit's proposed new name: Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science

- C. Proposal for reorganizing existing units** (colleges, schools, departments, or programs)

- Change in status of an existing and approved unit (e.g. change from a program to department) — please indicate current unit name including status: _____

- Transfer an existing unit

Please provide the current unit's name and home: _____

Please provide the new home for the unit: _____

- Merge two or more existing units (e.g., merge department A with department B)

Please provide the name and college of unit one to be merged: _____

Please provide the name and college of unit two to be merged: _____

- Terminate an existing unit — please provide the current unit's name and status: _____

- D. Other educational policy proposals** (e.g., academic calendar, grading policies, etc.)

Please indicate the nature of the proposal: _____

Elli, Amy Lawrence

From: John Unsworth <gslisdean@ad.uiuc.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 9:49 PM
To: Rhoads, Bruce L
Cc: Leigh, Steven R; Elli, Amy Lawrence
Subject: Re: name change info

Bruce,

I apologize for the delay: I had not polled the executive committee until your second email. We have no objections to this proposed name change: on the contrary, we look forward to building on our shared interest in information science.

John Unsworth

On Apr 5, 2011, at 8:45 AM, Rhoads, Bruce L wrote:

> John
>
> A reminder that that we are seeking an email from you that GSLIS is supportive of our name changes as per below.

>
> Thanks

>
> Bruce

>
>
> Hi Steve

>
> I talked to John Unsworth about the initiative to change our name to Geography and Geographic Information Science last semester and he was supportive.

>
> John, could you send an email to me and cc Steve and Amy indicating that you are supportive of our name change?

>
>
> Thanks!

>
> Bruce

>
>
> Professor Bruce L. Rhoads, Head
> Department of Geography
> University of Illinois
> 607 S. Mathews Ave.
> Urbana, IL 61801
> brhoads@illinois.edu
> 217-333-1880
> 217-244-1785 (FAX)

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Leigh, Steven R
> Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2011 8:18 AM
> To: Rhoads, Bruce L
> Cc: Elli, Amy Lawrence
> Subject: name change info

>
> Dear Bruce,
> I hope you had a good spring break. I was wondering if you'd had a chance to contact GSLIS regarding your department name change proposal. Recall that the Courses and Curricula Committee asked that we document GSLIS's

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



August 23, 2011

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to change the name of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science.

This proposal has been approved by the Committee on Courses and Curricula in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kristi A. Kuntz'.

Kristi A. Kuntz
Assistant Provost

KAK/njh

Enclosures

c: A. Elli
S. Leigh
S. Marshak
B. Rhoads

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Dean

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
294 Lincoln Hall
702 South Wright Street
Urbana, IL 61801-3631



August 3, 2011

Kritsi Kuntz
Assistant Provost
Swanlund Administration Building
MC-304

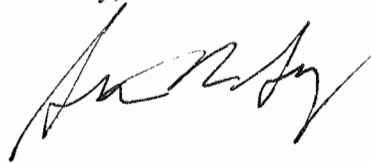
Dear Kristi:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula, Dean's Cabinet, Executive Committee and the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

Change the name of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science

Please address all correspondence concerning this proposal to me. This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation upon approval.

Sincerely,



Steven R. Leigh
Associate Dean

enclosure

C: Professor Bruce Rhoads
Professor Stephen Marshak

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University Library

Office of Dean of Libraries
and University Librarian
230 Main Library, MC-522
1408 West Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801



September 21, 2011

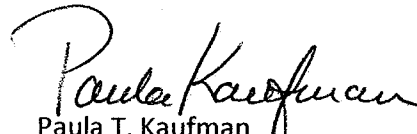
Professor Gay Miller
Department of Pathobiology
College of Veterinary Medicine
2635 Vet Med Basic Sciences Bldg.
M/C 002

Dear Professor Miller:

Thank you for giving the University Library the opportunity to review the Department of Geography's proposal to the Senate Committee on Educational Policy to rename the Department of Geography the Department of Geography and Geographic Information Science, to rename the corresponding BALAS, and to revise the degree requirements for the same (EP.12.02 – 03). Based upon the proposal that we reviewed, the support of the programs as described appears to require little in the way of additional resources beyond those currently provided for library materials in this area.

The University Library does not believe there will be an immediate impact on its operations. However, if there are additional services or materials are required as the program develops, we will be happy to discuss securing the requisite resources with the program sponsors.

Sincerely,



Paula T. Kaufman

Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson

Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

c: Thomas Teper
Bettina Francis
Jenny Johnson
Jennifer Roether
Scott Walter