

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.05.13

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



November 12, 2004

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

Dear Professor Aminmansour:

Enclosed are copies of a proposal from the College of Veterinary Medicine to effect a departmental name change from the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology to the Department of Pathobiology.

This proposal has been approved by the Department and by the College of Veterinary Medicine; it now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Marshall, Ph.D.
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: C. Livingstone
H. Whiteley
R. Smith

Enclosures

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PROPOSAL TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

TITLE OF THE PROPOSAL:

Proposal to change the name of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology to the Department of Pathobiology

SPONSOR:

Ronald D. Smith, Interim Head, Department of Veterinary Pathobiology, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2001 South Lincoln Avenue, MC-002, 333-2449; and

Herbert E. Whiteley, Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, 2001 South Lincoln Avenue, MC-002, 333-2760

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The name of the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology will be changed to the Department of Pathobiology

JUSTIFICATION:

The Department of Veterinary Pathobiology is one of three departments in the College of Veterinary Medicine. For many years it was known as the *Department of Veterinary Pathology and Hygiene* (VPH), with faculty research focusing primarily on the causes (*pathology*) and control (*hygiene*) of animal diseases. In the late 70's the name was changed to *Veterinary Pathobiology* (VP) to reflect an increasing focus of faculty research activities on understanding the pathogenic mechanisms in animal diseases. Over the past decade faculty research has focused increasingly on topics of immediate relevance to human health. Concurrently the majority of faculty research funding now comes from sources whose primary interest is human disease, such as the National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation, American Heart Association and Meningitis Research Foundation, to name a few. The trends described for this department are a reflection of the expanding involvement of the College of Veterinary Medicine in biomedical research, as outlined in the college's FY04 Annual Report to the Provost. The Department and College are well-positioned to contribute to the Provost's initiative to "develop a campus-wide program in comparative biomedical science/systems biology" (11/24/03 memo to BioDeans).

In recognition of this increasing involvement in comparative biomedical research, a departmental name change was seriously considered in 1998. Although a majority of faculty was in favor of omitting the term *veterinary*, a consensus could not be reached on any of the six candidate names under consideration. In April of 2004 this issue was revisited and VP faculty voted to (1) omit the term *veterinary* from the departmental name thereby (2) changing the name of the department to the *Department of Pathobiology*. There was unanimous support for this change, which attests to the solidarity of VP faculty on this issue. The name change also received unanimous support from the College of Veterinary Medicine's Executive Committee, with representation from all units within the College.

Omitting the term *veterinary* from our departmental name is not intended to distance us from other departments in the college, but rather to convey our expanding role in the biomedical research enterprise. The department has formal teaching and research programs in the areas of epidemiology, microbiology, immunology, parasitology and comparative pathology. The latter includes the highly successful pathology residency program, which is funded in part by external sponsors such as the National Cancer Institute, Eli Lilly and Pfizer. The department has also been the graduate research home for numerous Medical Scholars students, and VP faculty teach one of two core pathology courses to medical students on the UIUC campus. VP faculty also direct the *Center for Zoonoses Research* and organize the annual *New and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases Conference*, both of which focus on the biology and control of diseases common to animals to humans. Many of these are foodborne diseases which originate from foods of animal origin, but whose primary impact is upon human health.

Departmental faculty feel that the current name, *Veterinary Pathobiology*, implies that we somehow restrict the focus of our scholarly endeavors to *veterinary* diseases only. This is misleading and some feel places us at a disadvantage when competing for biomedical research funding, graduate students, and new faculty. Use of the term is also redundant as it is also part of our college name. Nineteen (70%) of the 27 accredited U.S. veterinary colleges currently include the term *pathobiology* in comparable department names (includes 2 using *pathobiological*); this contrasts with only 9 of 27 (33%) that include the term *veterinary* in the same department names. Thus, dropping the term *veterinary* and retaining *pathobiology* would be consistent with the majority of other veterinary colleges, our immediate competitors for faculty and graduate students.

In summary, the proposed name change accomplishes a number of important departmental objectives. It better reflects the activities of the department and would be more readily understood by those outside the college and the university. It provides a better "umbrella" for the NIH-funded research programs directly or indirectly associated with the newly expanded research space in this department. It maintains our identity and recognizes the department's interdisciplinary and collaborative programs, which should improve our ability to attract graduate students, new faculty, and a permanent Department Head through an external search. The proposed name should also facilitate more formal relationships with other units on campus, such as the Pathology Department in the College of Medicine.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

a. Additional staff and dollars needed

None

b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)

None

c. Effect on course enrollment in other departments and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments

There should be no effect on course enrollment in other departments. The proposed name change is supported by the College of Veterinary Medicine's Executive Committee which includes representatives from the other departments in the college. It has also received support from Dr. Bradford Schwartz (Regional Dean of the College of Medicine), Dr. James Slauch (Department of Microbiology and Director of the Medical Scholars Program), and Dr. Bruce Wheeler (Interim Head of the Department of Bioengineering). Their letters of support are attached to this proposal.

d. Impact on library, computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

None

CLEARANCES:

Paul D. Smith, Interim Head 7/6/04

Department of Veterinary Pathobiology

Date

AEW Whiteley 7-6-04

College of Veterinary Medicine

Date

Kenneth Mandell 11-12-04

Office of the Provost

Date

EFFECTIVE DATE:

January 2005