THE FACULTY SENATE

December 3, 1999

MEMORANDUM

TO: President Ray M. Bowen

SUBJECT: Approval of Name and Title Changes within COALS (FS.17.63)

At its regular meeting on November 8, 1999, the Faculty Senate approved the following proposal from the Graduate Council. Attached are the materials sent to our Senators regarding these items.

The Graduate Council at the October 14 meeting approved the proposal to change the name of the Faculty of Plant Physiology and Plant Biotechnology to the Faculty of Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences and the title of M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees awarded by the Faculty from Plant Physiology to Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences.

The Senate submits these recommendations for your approval. Please inform me of your action.

Thomas E. Wehrly
Speaker, 1999-2000

Attachments

cc: Dr. Ronald G. Douglas, Executive Vice President & Provost
    Dr. Janis P. Stout, Dean of Faculties & Associate Provost
    Dr. Edward A. Hiler, Vice Chancellor & Dean, COALS
    Dr. J. Rick Giardino, Chair, Graduate Council
    Ms. Linda F. Lacey, Director of Academic Support Services

Approved:

Ray M. Bowen, President

Date 1/7/2000
REPORT OF GRADUATE COUNCIL MEETING
October 14, 1999

The Graduate Council at the October 14 meeting approved the proposal to change the name of the Faculty of Plant Physiology and Plant Biotechnology to the Faculty of Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences and the title of M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees awarded by the Faculty from Plant Physiology to Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences.
Nonsubstantive Administrative Change Request

NAME OF INSTITUTION Texas A&M University

CHANGE REQUEST Change the name of the Faculty of Plant Physiology and Plant Biotechnology to the Faculty of Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences and the title of M.S. and Ph.D. Degrees awarded by the Faculty from Plant Physiology to Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences.

Display how administrative unit(s) and program(s) would appear on the Coordinating Board program inventory; include Texas CIP code designation(s). Administrative Unit codes will be supplied.

TEXAS CIP code designation 26.0307

Proposed date for implementation of administrative change September 1, 1999

Person to be contacted for further information about administrative change(s):

Name: Dr. Wayne R. Jordan
Professor, Soil and Crop Sciences

Name: Dr. Edward A. Hiler
Vice Chancellor
For Agriculture and Life Sciences

Title: Faculty Chair

Title: Vice Chancellor of Agriculture

Phone: (409) 845-1851
FAX: (409) 845-8554
E-Mail: jordan@twri.tamu.edu

FAX: (409) 845-9938
E-Mail: e-hiler@tamu.edu

Signatures:

_________________________________________  __________________________
Campus Chief Executive Officer  Date

_________________________________________  __________________________
System Chief Executive Officer  Date

Governing Board approval date: __________________________
Texas A&M University

Nonsubstantive Administrative Change Requested from the Faculty of Plant Physiology and Plant Biotechnology to

(1) Change the Name of the Faculty from the Faculty of Plant Physiology and Plant Biotechnology to the Faculty of Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences, and

(2) Change the title of the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees awarded by the Faculty from Plant Physiology to Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences

1. Describe the change requested:

The request is to change the name of the Faculty from Plant Physiology and Plant Biotechnology to Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences. The prefix of the Plant Physiology courses (currently PPHY) will be changed to MEPS if this request is approved. In addition we request a change of the name of M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Plant Physiology to Molecular and Environmental Plant Sciences.

2. Provide a rationale for the proposal change:

This request will clarify the nature of the graduate curricula, and the academic interests of the members of the Faculty. Since the inter-departmental Faculty of Plant Physiology was first formed in 1984, there has been a change of emphasis within the subject area, and among members of our Faculty. The Faculty presently comprises those with interests in four areas: (i) Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Plant Biology (ii) Genomics and Evolution (iii) Plant Biochemistry and Physiology (iv) Environmental Plant Science. Our graduate students, currently 30, are distributed among all four areas. The requested Faculty name change, and the associated change in the title of the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees, better represent the breadth of activities that are in fact being undertaken by faculty members and their graduate students. Additionally, the requested name change is consistent with the recommendation of an external review panel that evaluated the program of the Faculty in 1998. The requested name change would also be more consistent with that of other faculties like ours in leading universities. Because the new name will more accurately reflect the graduate degree program offered by our Faculty, it should assist in recruiting graduate students to Texas A&M. The new title of the M.S. and Ph.D. degree should also prove more attractive to prospective employers.