MEMORANDUM

TO    David Reed
       Chair
       Graduate Council

THROUGH  Mark Zoran
          Chair
          College of Science Graduate Instruction Committee

FROM   Edward S. Fry
        Department Head

DATE   February 19, 2009

SUBJECT  departmental name change

Please note the attached proposal, submitted for your consideration.
Non-substantive Administrative Request - Title Page

Name of Institution: Texas A&M University

Change Request: Request changing the name of the Department of Physics to Department of Physics and Astronomy

Display how proposed program(s) would appear on the Coordinating Board program inventory; include Texas CIP designation(s).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>CIP Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physics</td>
<td>PHYS</td>
<td>40.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Astronomy</td>
<td>ASTR</td>
<td>40.02</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Proposed date for implementation of administrative change: Fall 2009

Persons to be contacted for further information about administrative change:

- Name: Dr. Edward Fry
- Phone: 979/845-1910
- Title: Chair, Department of Physics, TAMU
- e-mail: fry@physics.tamu.edu

Signatures:

TAMU Campus Chief Executive Officer

Date

System Chief Executive Officer (as appropriate)

Date

Governing Board approval date:
PROPOSED NAME CHANGE FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS AND ASTRONOMY

1. Change Requested:

The Department of Physics requests to change the name of the Department to the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

2. Rationale:

Over the past 3 years, as part of Texas A&M University’s Faculty Reinvestment Program, the Department of Physics has hired 7 faculty members who specialize in the area of astronomy. These faculty members are in charge of teaching ASTR 101 “Introductory Astronomy”, which has seen a significant increase in enrollment over the past two years, reaching 650+ students in the current semester (09A). Thanks to the generosity of several alumni, TAMU has made significant investments in major infrastructure related to astronomy, including partnership in the Giant Magellan Telescope, the construction of the George P. & Cynthia W. Mitchell Institute for Fundamental Physics and Cosmology, and the renovation of a previously-existing building on campus which now houses the Munnerlyn Astronomy & Space Sciences Engineering Building. Lastly, a proposal to authorize a graduate program in Astronomy will be submitted later this year.

Given the above, the faculty of the Department of Physics feels it is necessary for the name of the Department to more accurately reflect its current mission and hence request the change of its name to Department of Physics and Astronomy.

3. Effects on the Administrative Unit and on the Institution:

A number of beneficial impacts are expected as a result of the proposed name change. First, the mission of the department will be more accurately reflected by the name change. We anticipate that the name change will positively impact our national reputation and rankings, since it will reflect our current research and teaching programs. We anticipate that the name change will be seen positively by prospective students, aiding in our recruiting efforts.

4. Implication for Classes, Personnel, Facilities and Equipment:

The proposed name change will have no effect on classes taught, distribution of personnel, availability of facilities, or availability of equipment.

5. Cost savings:

The proposed name change will not incur any additional costs to the unit, except minimal cost for changes in stationary, signage and publication. We note that these costs will be incurred regardless by the anticipated start date due to the relocation of the Department to the new Mitchell Buildings. No cost savings will be generated by the change.