

Background on Renaming of Academic Units

Fall 2010

Background:

- A new section to the faculty handbook, 2.8 Policy for Renaming Academic Units, is being proposed to capture the approval process for renaming academic units that was lost with the Senate's recent revision of Section 10.8.
- The approval process for renaming academic units was removed from the revision of Section 10.8 because section 10.8 deals with curriculum and academic program issues and renaming an academic unit is not a curricular issue. Renaming of academic programs is still covered in Section 10.8.
- All of the text in the proposed Section 2.8 is new.
- Section 2.8 captures and codifies current practice and is consistent with what was removed from Section 10.8.

2.8 Policy for Renaming Academic Units

The renaming of academic units (departments, interdepartmental and interdisciplinary programs, schools, or colleges) is an academic activity that is part of university governance shared by faculty and administration. Renaming is carried out via a multi-step process involving discussion, planning, and review.

2.8.1 Discussion and planning

The decision to begin the process of renaming an academic unit can be made by the faculty in the unit or the administrator (dean, provost, president) who is responsible for the unit. The goal in planning a renaming is to develop a rationale for the proposed name change and to seek input from appropriate stakeholders. The proposed renaming plan will include a suggested new name and a justification supporting the change. In the spirit of shared governance, substantial effort shall be made to include all members of the affected unit in the planning process.

2.8.2 Faculty Evaluation and Vote

The proposed renaming plan will be reviewed by the faculty in the affected unit and the faculty review of the plan will conclude with a vote on whether to recommend the name change. If the faculty vote is no, the plan will not go forward. If the plan involves renaming a department or school, the administrator of the unit will present the plan along with the positive vote of the faculty to the dean for consideration. The dean will add his or her recommendation and submit the plan (including the positive faculty vote) to the provost. If the plan involves renaming a college, the dean will submit the plan with the positive vote of the college faculty to the provost.

2.8.3 Review by Provost

After reviewing the plan and recommendation of the dean, the provost may take one of the following actions:

- **Return Plan to College**
The provost may send the plan back to the college for further review and/or revision.
- **Reject Plan**
The provost may reject the plan and terminate the process, leaving the existing name in place.
- **Submit Plan to Faculty Senate**
The provost may submit the plan to the Faculty Senate for a review with a recommendation that it be approved.

2.8.4 Review by Faculty Senate

The Faculty Senate will review the plan as submitted by the provost. The Senate's review may include discussions with the faculty and/or administrators in the unit. The Senate may request further information and/or clarification from the provost about the plan and about his or her recommendation. The Senate's review will conclude with an advisory vote and recommendation to the president.

2.8.5 Review by President

After reviewing the plan and the recommendation of the Faculty Senate, the president may pass the recommendation on to the Board of Regents for final approval or may reject the plan.