

February 14, 2014

To: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Lynda Bell, Chair *Lynda S. Bell*
Graduate Council

RE: Campus Review of Departmental Name Change Proposals

Because the date to respond to three departmental name change proposals fell between regular monthly meetings of the full Graduate Council, the Courses and Programs subcommittee of the Council, with Chair Bell also in attendance, considered the proposals at their regularly scheduled meeting of February 13, 2014. All other members of the Graduate Council were invited to the meeting, and also were offered the opportunity to comment via email. Two members responding by email had no objections to the proposals. Among the eight Graduate Council members attending the February 13 meeting, discussion of the proposed changes led us to articulate some concerns regarding two of the three proposals, namely those originating from the faculty in Electrical Engineering and in Theater. As we are uncertain as to our role in the decision-making process, we see the expression of these concerns as advisory and did not take a formal vote "yay or nay" on the proposals. Here are our concerns:

In the case of the Electrical Engineering and Theater name change proposals, we are concerned that there may be faculty in other departments potentially impacted by the name changes whose voices we cannot find in the written materials. We are amply clear on the deans' positions and the originating faculty's investigations and justifications, and also on the involvement of the Executive Committees of the two colleges. But we do not know directly from the written materials exactly how, or even if, other potentially affected faculty were consulted. In the case of Electrical Engineering, it would be the faculty of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering and in the case of Theater, it would be the faculty (primarily) of the Department of Media and Cultural Studies, whose views may need more direct articulation. Why does this matter to Graduate Council? As a committee, we are concerned about the following two issues that are part of our purview:

1) Graduate student recruitment may be impacted adversely for faculty in other departments and programs by the name changes; and

2) Graduate curricula will have to be reshaped to reflect these changes, as well as the strategies of departments regarding new faculty recruitments.

What would be the remedy for our concerns? We concluded that it would be very helpful to read written statements compiled directly by potentially affected faculty in other departments (as noted above). Such additions would enable the Academic Senate to reflect more fully and fairly to all potentially affected faculty on the impact of the suggested name changes.