

March 30, 2017

To: Riverside Division of the UC Academic Senate  
Through: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair  
From: Cynthia Larive, Provost and EVC *Cynthia Larive*

**Request for name changes to three CNAS departments**

Dear Dylan,

I am forwarding three proposals from CNAS departments to change their names, as summarized below.

- The Department of Biology requests a name change to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology.
- The Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience requests a name change to the Department of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology.
- The Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology requests a name change to the Department of Microbiology and Plant Pathology.

These proposals have been developed and approved by the faculty of each department, endorsed by CNAS Dean Kathryn Uhrich, and are unanimously supported by the CNAS executive committee. I am pleased to add my support for these changes, as I believe that the new names are a better reflection of the current organization and future directions of life science teaching and research at UCR.

TO: Cindy Larive, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor  
FROM: Kathryn Uhrich, Dean, CNAS  
DATE: March 11, 2017  
RE: Name change for the Department of Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology (EEOB)

I am pleased to submit the attached letter from the faculty of the Department of Biology to change its name to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology (EEOB). After several months of discussion within the Department and with CNAS, the proposed name change was unanimously approved by the Department in March 2016.

As well outlined in the Department's letter, the name change better reflects the current programs of the Department and their vision for the future. I am fully supportive of the name change, particularly as it aligns with a graduate program named EEOB that currently resides in the Department.

Therefore, I request the campus approves the formal change the name of the Department of Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology (EEOB).

Please let me know if you need any additional information.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**UC RIVERSIDE** | College of Natural and  
Agricultural Sciences  
Executive Committee

February 27, 2016

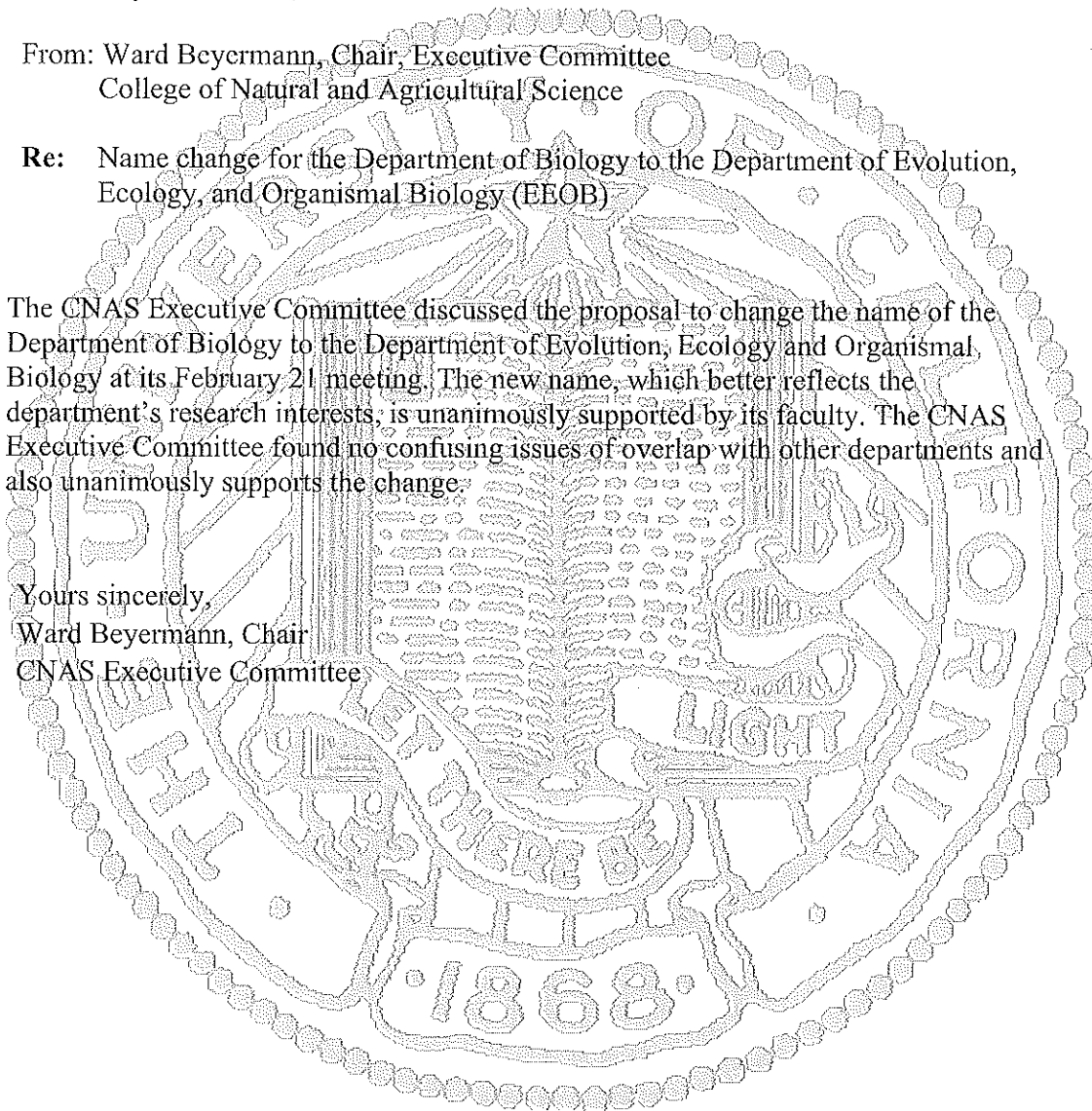
To: Cynthia Larive, Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor

From: Ward Beyermann, Chair, Executive Committee  
College of Natural and Agricultural Science

Re: Name change for the Department of Biology to the Department of Evolution,  
Ecology, and Organismal Biology (EEOB)

The CNAS Executive Committee discussed the proposal to change the name of the Department of Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology at its February 21 meeting. The new name, which better reflects the department's research interests, is unanimously supported by its faculty. The CNAS Executive Committee found no confusing issues of overlap with other departments and also unanimously supports the change.

Yours sincerely,  
Ward Beyermann, Chair  
CNAS Executive Committee



March 29, 2016

To: Kathryn Uhrich  
Dean, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

From: Michael F. Allen  
Chair, Department of Biology

Re: **Proposal to change the name of the UCR Department of Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology**

**Why rename the Department?** We propose that the name of the Department of Biology be changed to the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Organismal Biology (EEOB) to reflect our core areas of research, align the Department with its highly successful graduate program, and more clearly distinguish the Department from other life sciences units within CNAS. The Department voted for this change in April of 2014. We have further discussed. **The vote for the name change was unanimous, 20 in favor, none opposed.**

Our Department has a world-class research reputation in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology, and these areas have long been its primary focus and strength. These facts were formally acknowledged several years ago when the department renamed its graduate program as EEOB. In the 2010 NRC rankings, the EEOB graduate program ranked in the top 10 (of 95) Ecology and Evolution graduate programs (<PhDs.org>) nationwide, and was the second highest ranked graduate program in the college, after Entomology, based on the median S ranking - the measure recommended by the UCR graduate division.

Evidence of our reputation in EEOB areas can be derived from the accomplishments of these 20 faculty, including career achievement awards, elected fellowships to national societies, elections to positions of leadership in international research organizations, and recipients of a MacArthur "genius" award and the Chevron Conservation Award. Our scholarly works are published in high profile journals, including 16 in Nature, 20 in Science, and 26 in PNAS over the careers of the current faculty. The Department's prominence in EEOB is also substantiated by advanced scholarly ranks. These include two Distinguished Professors, six Senior (step 6) Professors, and six Full Professors.

Since 2000, every faculty member that has been hired in our Department works in areas of EEOB. Thus, for over fifteen years, the Department has been on a trajectory towards becoming a Department of EEOB and the time has come to embrace this reality. A rename is necessitated for the Department to have an accurate identity within CNAS, within UCR, and indeed within the UC system, but also solidifies the Department's position at the forefront of research and training in Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology.

**What is the Departmental mission?** The Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology (EEOB) provides research, teaching, and service for the University of California- Riverside in the biomechanics, physiology, behavior, and ontogenetic development of organisms, the interactions of organisms with each other and with their physical environment, the mechanisms by which genes and populations change across generations, and the evolutionary histories of molecules, genomes, and species over deep time. Our foci are multi-faceted and range from the molecular and cellular underpinnings of organismal function, through the biological basis of behavior, the evolutionary and ecological implications of organism-environment interactions in the face of rapid environmental change.

**What is the impact on the Biology undergraduate program?** The departmental name change does not necessitate a change in the name of our major or its courses. Many Biology programs nationwide and within the UC are administered singly or jointly by multiple departments. We will continue to be responsible for the Biology major, at least until such time as a college-level life sciences reorganization is completed. The current major encompasses broad undergraduate training in biology and the physical sciences, together with study in the humanities and social sciences. We will continue to work with the Life Sciences Council of Chairs to provide

adequate faculty to cover the increasing numbers of sections in the life science core courses required for the increasing student enrollments.

**What is the impact on the Departmental graduate program?** The name change will align the Department with its graduate program, which is already named EEOB. The name change will not affect the current operation of the EEOB graduate program, but will have the positive effect of reducing confusion, including by prospective graduate students that we wish to recruit.

**What are the budgetary impacts?** We anticipate no to few budgetary impacts. All financial and laboratory preparation personnel are within the BNN Administrative Unit, along with a new EEOB, a new MCSB, and the NRS. We anticipate no changes in management or responsibilities of BNN. The two Academic Coordinators for Biology teaching labs are members of the Biology Department. There may be some reshuffling in assignments after MCSB is organized. But until that time, they remain welcome in the EEOB Department.

**Why "EEOB"?** EEOB and variations of that name are found at numerous other top-rank universities. In all cases, the name accompanies a division of the life sciences into two or more departments, with at least one focused on molecular and cellular biology and one on organismal biology. For example, four variations of this name presently exist within the UC system. UCI, UCLA, and UCSC have Departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (EEB); UCSD has a Section of Ecology, Behavior and Evolution (EBE); UCSB has a Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Marine Biology (EEMB); and UCD has a Department of Evolution and Ecology (EVE). At UCR, EEOB is preferred because Organismal Biology is inclusive of behavior, development, biomechanics, and physiology, all areas of past, current, and anticipated future strengths within the department. EEOB is also the name of the Department's graduate program.

**How does EEOB relate to the CNAS External Review Report?** The CNAS External Review team report distributed on 5/14/2014, suggested that one option was to have a single Biological Sciences Department, possibly consisting of the current faculty in Biology, Biochemistry, and Cell Biology and Neuroscience. We are supportive of a Division of Biological Sciences, wherein faculty members from the aforementioned departments self-assemble according to their research interests. In addition, faculty from other life sciences departments (Botany and Plant Sciences, Entomology, Nematology, and Plant Pathology and Microbiology) may choose to join EEOB as part of a broader reorganizational plan. *The external review team* noted that

*"opportunities for achieving critical mass through more ambitious departmental realignments should be critically evaluated ... Our proposal for an EEOB department, coupled with an invitation for others to join this unit, is fully in the spirit of the external review team's recommendations and will build on UCR's national reputation for excellence in EEOB."*

The External Review team also encouraged,

*"the college to take small steps at first by implementing changes that are more straightforward to accomplish. We also encourage the faculty to develop an action plan ..."*

Our proposal to rename our Department is consistent with this action plan.

**In summary:** It is impractical for a department of 22 faculty (including two hires in progress) to adequately represent the breadth of biological research in the 21st century, especially in the context of a university with multiple life sciences departments. This is consistent with the national trend of subdividing the field of biology into different facets of the biological sciences. With this name change, UCR's dedication to all levels of life science, from single molecules up to the global ecosystem, will be more visibly demonstrated. As the Department of EEOB, our internationally recognized research strengths will be showcased, and this name will better define how we interdigitate with and enhance other CNAS departments.

## **Fwd: Name change proposal**

Jose Wudka

**Sent:** Monday, April 04, 2016 4:04 PM

**To:** Sarjeet S Gill

**Cc:** Cherysa P Cortez

Dear Sarjeet,

This is the addendum to the Biology renaming proposal that I mentioned.

Best,

-Jose

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Michael Allen <[michael.allen@ucr.edu](mailto:michael.allen@ucr.edu)>  
**Date:** April 4, 2016 at 10:39:20 AM PDT  
**To:** Jose Wudka <[jose.wudka@ucr.edu](mailto:jose.wudka@ucr.edu)>  
**Cc:** Kathryn Uhrich <[kathryn.uhrich@ucr.edu](mailto:kathryn.uhrich@ucr.edu)>  
**Subject: Re: Name change proposal**

Dear Jose, let me know if this is what you are looking for. Cheers- Mike

### **Are any other departments affected?**

The major impact on other departments would be on a newly developing MCDB department. Based on discussions between 0 and 3 of the current faculty might wish to join this department. Depending upon how other such as Departments, Botany and Plant Sciences, Entomology respond, there might be between 3 and 4 faculty members from other Departments may wish to join the EEOB Department.

The formal transfer of FTE between departments requires a positive vote from the Home department and the new department. Faculty of the Biology/EEOB Department have already voted that they would allow existing faculty to move into or out of the current Biology department with the reorganization. Teaching and space issues would have to be resolved at that time, but as many of the relevant classes currently are facilitated by the LSAC, we would not anticipate a significant problem with faculty or space adjustments.

Sincerely, Mike Allen

Michael Allen  
Chair and Distinguished Professor, Department of Biology  
Director, Center for Conservation Biology  
Distinguished Professor, Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology  
University of California  
Riverside, CA 92521 USA  
951/827-5494

On Apr 3, 2016, at 12:43 PM, Jose Wudka <[jose.wudka@ucr.edu](mailto:jose.wudka@ucr.edu)> wrote:

Dear Michael,

I just received the renaming proposal from Biology, and I would like to ask for a small addendum (in the form of a response to this Email): could you elaborate on which departments/programs (if any) will be affected, and how, by the proposed name change?

Thank you and best regards,

-Jose