
Campus Community,

In December of 2005 the Physics faculty voted to rename their department to the Department of Physics and Astronomy. The name change will emphasize their existing strengths - and intention to grow - in the astronomy and astrophysics fields. This has occurred at a time when the department is developing and implementing a plan to expand its faculty base in cosmology, space science, and observational astronomy. Appending “Astronomy” to physics department names is common among many universities that have such faculty strengths (e.g., UCI, USC, and UCLA).

The department has recently expanded its existing Astrophysics track and created a new Cosmology and Astroparticle Physics track within the Physics Ph.D. program. It expects to create a new Astronomy track as soon as additional Astronomy faculty are recruited. The department also plans to submit build a separate Ph.D. program in Astronomy and Astrophysics in the near future.

As of June 16th, all campus and system-wide procedures for approving a department name change have been completed, and I am happy to announce the new Department of Physics and Astronomy.

Ellen Wartella

Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost
June 13, 2006

TO  ELLEN A. WARETTLA
    EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR & PROVOST

FM:  M. M. MARTINS-GREEN
     CHAIR, RIVERSIDE DIVISION

RE:  PROPOSED PHYSICS NAME CHANGE

The proposed name change request from the Department of Physics was sent out to the relevant Senate Committees for review and comments, and the committees, including the Advisory Committee unanimously approved the name change to the Department of Physics and Astronomy as proposed.
May 24, 2006

TO: MANUELA MARTINS-GREEN, CHAIR
RIVERSIDE DIVISION

FM: LYNDA S. BELL, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

RE: CEP RECOMMENDATION ON THE PROPOSED NAME CHANGE FOR THE
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

The Committee on Educational Policy met on May 23 and discussed the proposal for a name change for the Department of Physics. We fully support the faculty proposal for the name change to the Department of Physics and Astronomy, in keeping with the practices of other universities. We also understand there is a potential to bring in more undergraduates with such a name change. At the same time, we hope that the EVC-P will consult with the Physics faculty on all matters connected with the name change, especially on plans for faculty recruitment.
June 1, 2006

TO:       M. MARTINS-GREEN, CHAIR
           RIVERSIDE DIVISION

FR:       S.E. CULLENBERG, CHAIR
           PLANNING AND BUDGET

RE:       PROPOSED PHYSICS NAME CHANGE

The Committee on Planning and Budget supports the change in name of the Physics department and notes that the proposal was also approved by the Physics faculty, the Executive Committee of CNAS and the Dean. The name change will broaden the mission of the current department, incorporate expertise currently in existence in the department into that broader mission, and provide an effective framework for ongoing departmental planning and development.

CC:       Wilfred Chen
           Conrad Rudolph
           Glenn Hatton
           Douglas Mitchell
           Tony Norman
           Vivian-L. Nyitray
           Subir Ghosh
TO: Manuela Martins-Green, Chair
Riverside Division
Academic Senate

FROM: John Ganim, Chair
Committee on Academic Personnel

RE: Renaming of the Department of Physics

At its meeting of May 17, 2006, CAP discussed, at your request, the proposal to rename the Department of Physics as the Department of Physics and Astronomy. CAP does not have a recommendation to make on the proposal, since we are used to evaluating files that cross departmental and disciplinary boundaries. Nevertheless, some of our observations might be of use to the Advisory Council.

First, we note that the cover sheet states that Professor Zank has been promised a separate department as a condition of a retention offer. At least in the documents in the dossier, the only statement by the Dean relative to such a promise was an acknowledgement that Professor Zank would like a separate department of astrophysics.

Second, we note that the cover sheet states that the Provost has recommended against the name change. The statement we found in the dossier from the Provost asked for a delay to encourage thoughtful planning.

CAP understood that the members of the department, and future members of the department, in the subfield of astrophysics would want their research area to be clearly expressed in the name of the department, whether or not a future separate department devoted to astronomy will be established. Some members of CAP questioned whether the name change in fact is necessary, given the broad rubrics most large departments operate under, and given the increasing crossdepartmental and crossdisciplinary research at UCR.

CAP did not consider the advisability of creating a separate department of Astrophysics.
May 25, 2006

Manuela Martins-Green, Chair
Riverside Division
Academic Senate

At its meeting of Wednesday, May 24, 2006, the Graduate Council considered your memo (with attachments) dated May 11, 2006, regarding the proposed name change of the Department of Physics. The Council voted unanimously (with three recusals) to recommend approval of the proposed name change to the Department of Physics and Astronomy.

R. Robert Russell, Chair
Graduate Council

RRR/vb