Educational Policies Committee Program Proposal, College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, April 19, 2007

Utah State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/fs_edpol

Recommended Citation

This Program Proposal is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Senate at DigitalCommons@USU. It has been accepted for inclusion in Educational Policies Committee by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@USU. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@usu.edu.
AGENDA

MEETING OF THE
UTAH STATE BOARD OF REGENTS
TO BE HELD AT
DIXIE STATE COLLEGE, ST. GEORGE, UTAH

April 19 – 20, 2007

Utah State Board of Regents
Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education
Board of Regents Building, The Gateway
60 South 400 West
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101-1284
April 9, 2007

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Regents

FROM: Richard E. Kendell

SUBJECT: Information Calendar: Academic, Career and Technical Education, and Student Success
Programs Committee

The following requests have been submitted for consideration by the Regents on the Information Calendar of the Programs Committee.

_Utah State University_

i. Change name of Plants, Soils, and Biometry Department

**Request:** The Plants, Soils, and Biometry Department wishes to change its name to the "Plants, Soils, and Climate Department."

**Need:** The current department name was adopted in 1989 with the merger of the Plant Science Department and the Soils and Biometry Department. The department indicates that the current name is ineffective for the following reasons: 1) Biometry is "a science that deals with the relationship between living things and atmospheric phenomena" (Webster). Although this term is scientifically correct, it is often unclear to the public at large and fails to succinctly describe a significant portion of the mission of the department. The department’s research and academic programs consider the interactions of both weather and climate on various ecosystems. The term "climate" is well understood by everyone, 2) The Utah legislature recently funded the Utah Climate and Weather Database Center at Utah State University. This Center is affiliated with the department and that collaboration would be better served by the use of "Climate" in the department name, 3) Global warming and climate change are currently topics of great importance, and much of the research conducted in the department is related to this subject. It would be to the advantage of the department to clearly state this emphasis in the department name. In general, the term "climate" more clearly describes what is being done in the department, and 4) The moniker "Plants, Soils, and Biometry" is difficult to say and results in frequent misunderstandings in telephone conversations.

**Institutional Impact:** Within the department, the proposal to change the name was met with unanimous approval. This change will have no impact on other departments and should improve utilization of the department by students and the public as they have a clearer understanding of what the department has to offer. The change will not impact administrative structures, physical facilities, or equipment.
**Finances:** The only costs anticipated are changes to the department website and letterhead. It should have no budgetary impact on any other programs or units at USU.

**ii. Change the Name of the Department of Business Information Systems**

**Request:** The Department of Business Information Systems requests permission to change the name of the department from Business Information Systems to Management Information Systems.

**Need:** Management Information Systems (MIS) is a widely adopted department name by leading information systems programs. Top programs using the MIS name include the Terry College of Business at the University of Georgia, Eller College of Business at the University of Arizona, Management Information Systems (MIS) University of Texas at Austin, University of Virginia, Fox School of Business at Temple University,

Business Information Systems is no longer a common department name for information systems programs. For instance, IS World's (IS World.org) list of undergraduate programs contains around 50 programs. Among these 50 programs, only St. Bonaventure University was listed as using the BIS name for the department. St. Bonaventure offers a 4-year degree in BIS.

The department believes the MIS name represents a standard of high quality and sends a signal to potential employers and donors that the department is committed to high-end research and teaching. Management Information Systems has broad strategic appeal. The change from BIS to MIS is necessary, as we remain committed to offering a quality information systems program at the bachelor's, master's, and doctoral levels.

**Institutional Impact:** Although a name change may appear to be a minor change, the department believes there is great potential for positive institutional impact. Students, faculty, and development efforts will benefit from this department name change.

Students looking for employment on Monster.com will only find 111 related positions linked to the keyword "BIS". However, a search of "MIS" yields over 1000 (which is the maximum allowed) related positions. More importantly, BIS does not contain any search-related job titles. However, MIS includes related job titles including MIS manager, information Systems manager, Information technology manager, IT manager, IT director, director of information technology, MIS director, director of information systems, network manager, and director of technology.

Faculty recognize the importance of the MIS name change. During the departmental faculty meeting on February 15, 2006 the faculty unanimously agreed to the name change.

**Finances:** The departmental name change does not require additional funding or staffing changes. However, the department believes the name change will help facilitate departmental and college goals related to student recruitment, student placement, as well as development efforts.