Unit Name Change Request Form

Unit/College/School: School of Public Affairs

Current Name: Department of Geography, Planning and Community Development

Requested New Name: Department of Geography and Planning

Rationale for Requested Name Change (attach additional documentation, if needed):

The Department of Geography has for many years housed (rostered faculty) in four separate degree programs: 1) Geography; 2) Travel and Tourism; 3) Land Surveying and Mapping Sciences; and 4) Social Studies Education. With the university reorganization and the creation of a new department that included all of the previous 4 degree programs plus the degree program and faculty in Planning and Community Development it was clearly understood by all that it was necessary to consider a name change for the Department. A lively but very respectful email discussion that included all faculty in the new academic department ensued with two main threads: 1) A new name that would be very short but encompass all of the various programs (suggested names: Department of Geographical Studies; Department of Geospatial Studies); 2) A new name that would recognize all of the degree programs (Department of Geography, Tourism, Surveying and Planning).

Describe process used by unit and college/school to approve name change (include documentation such as meeting minutes if available):

On May 5, 2011 faculty met to decide on a process to determine the new name for the Department.

See attached Minutes.

See attached emails that reported the process and the results of the various votes. The process took much longer than originally anticipated and all steps in the process are clearly documented in the attached emails. While the process did take longer than anticipated I believe that the attached documents strongly indicate a process that respected all opinions. With 5 different majors housed in one Department it is extremely difficult to come up with a name that can represent the interests of all. I would also note that the name determined by the Administration, “Department of Geography, Planning and Community Development” was NOT one of the names that was suggested by faculty in the new unit at the May 5, 2011 meeting.
Describe minority opinion within the department/unit (attach additional documentation, if available):

See attached Minutes and emails regarding the process.

Required Signatures:

Unit representative (i.e., chair, director): [Signature] Date: 30 August 2011
(Representative will be asked to attend SPC meeting to discuss request.)

☑ Recommend □ Do not Recommend
Comment: [Signature]

Dean (if applicable): [Signature] Date: 9/26/11
☑ Recommend □ Do not Recommend
Comment: [Signature]

Strategic Planning Committee Co-chair: [Signature] Date: 9/26/11
☑ Recommend □ Do not Recommend

SPC Motion: The SPC supports and recommends this name change be approved.
Motion: Mark Jaede Second: Michael Ernst - NO objection

Provost or Appropriate Vice President: [Signature] Date: 9/26/11
(Following SPC recommendation)
☑ Recommend □ Do not Recommend
Comment: [Signature]

President: [Signature] Date: 10/3/11
☑ Approve □ Do not Approve
Comment: [Signature]

Upon final determination, copies should be sent to:
Requesting unit
Appropriate Dean or Vice President
Process for naming academic units

Academic units who wish to change their name will complete the following process:

- Proposal developed with rationale for name change prepared by academic unit.
- Unit completes a documented process of consultation with faculty and staff within the college or school regarding the name change.
- Dean submits name change request to the Strategic Planning Committee who will engage in a campus-wide consultation of the proposed name change with interested departments and units.
- Strategic Planning Committee puts forward their position on the proposed name change based on unit rationale and feedback from the campus community.
- Provost makes recommendation on the proposed name change to the President.
- University President makes the final determination on the name change.
DEPARTMENT OF GEOGRAPHY
Department Meeting: Minutes
Thursday May 5, 2011
10:30 a.m. SH 359A


Absent: Van Assche (LOA), Ward

Call to Order: 10:37 a.m.

1. Naming of our “New unit” –
   Discussion….
   M/S/P (John/Baker)…Create a slate of names & apply the alternative vote mechanism (to be defined) to decide the new unit’s name. Discussion on motion.
   10 yea, 1 nay, 2 abstentions

   M/S/P /Unanimous (Ugochukwu/Wixon…Each program will caucus & come back with a maximum of 2 names and then reconvene. Discussion. 12 approved, 1 opposed.

   Names submitted:
   Geography:
   -Dept. of Geographical Studies
   -Dept. of Geography & Planning

   Travel & Tourism
   -Dept. of Geographical Studies (submitted twice)
   -Dept. of Geography

   Land Surveying
   -Dept. of Geography & Planning (submitted twice)
   -Dept. of Geospatial Studies & Planning

   Community Studies
   -Dept. of Geography & Community Planning
   -Dept. of Geographical Studies & Planning

   M/S/P/Unanimous John/Rigopoulos to place the six names to be voted on the ballot.

   M/S/P/Unanimous John/Baker- that we use as the alternative voting mechanism which ranks the acceptable names on the ballot in order of preference. In the event that the majority is not achieved for one name, the ballots that received the fewest votes will be re-designated according to the 2nd ranked choice and that procedure be repeated until the majority is achieved.
Paper ballots. Absent faculty will receive an email. Electronic ballots need to be “postmarked” by noon on Monday, May 9th.

Include on ballot....Rank all acceptable names in order of preference. You may wish not to rank some of the choices.

On Monday, May 9th at 1 p.m. anyone is welcome to be present at the counting of the ballots.

2. Assessment Work & other Unfinished Business
   Get back to David whether:

   I’ll work with you over the summer OR
   I’ll work with you when we are back in August

   Adjourned: 12:10 p.m.
Greetings All:

Several of us met this afternoon to tabulate the ballots and we have an impasse. As a result we will need to revote, but the revote must be from a shorter list of names. The question is how short should that list be and which names should be on the list?

Below are the results of the voting and how we counted. After counting the first choice we eliminated the name Dept. of Geographical Studies and Planning. That ballot listed Dept. of Geographical Studies as its 2nd choice. We then eliminated the other 3 names that only received 2 first choices and went with their next highest choice that was still available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>1st Choice</th>
<th>2nd Choice</th>
<th>3rd choice</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geographical Studies</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geography and Planning</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geography</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geospatial Studies and Planning</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geography and Community Planning</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geographical Studies and Planning</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Obviously no name received a majority of the votes. We then discussed how we should proceed.

Option 1: To vote between only two names, those two names that received the most 1st choices. That would leave a vote between:
1) Department of Geographical Studies
2) Department of Geography and Community Planning

However, we did some further examination of the ballots to see the number of times names were NOT ranked at all, as indicated by the below table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Not Listed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geographical Studies</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geography and Planning</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Department of Geography and Community Planning</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note, that there were 9 people who did not list Department of Geography and Community Planning as a choice they could live with (versus the 4 where it was their 1st choice). In addition, there were 6 that did not list Department of Geographical Studies as a name that they could live with (with 5 as their first choice). However, there were only 4 ballots that did not list Department of Geography and Planning as a name they could not live with. This strongly
suggests that while Department of Geography and Planning was not among the top choices, it is a name that fewer people have strong negative objections to. This raises the question as to which names really should be voted on. This suggestions

Option 2: To vote between the following two names, the two that were the “least objectionable.”
   1) Department of Geographical Studies
   2) Department of Geography and Planning.

And you may have yet another option, one that would include more names

Please respond with a “Reply All” as to what ideas and preferences you have for how we should move forward.

David
Good Morning all:

I’ve read through the various emails and talked to some folks and here is what I’ve concluded (though I might be wrong). We are very much at an impasse. I think we are at the point of finding a name, not that people really like, but rather a name that the fewest people find objectionable. Attached to this email is a spreadsheet of the vote totals. In this case a lower number is “better” in the sense that it received “higher” rankings by more people. I assigned the number 7 to represent the fact that a person left a particular name off of their ballot, signifying that they could NOT accept that name.

Obviously the name Geographical Studies has the lowest number. The difficulty in choosing what other name to put on a ballot has to do with the rankings of the other names. The next lowest is “Geography and Planning” which is only 4 points higher than Geographical Studies. In “third” place is “Geographical Studies and Planning”. Which is 10 points higher than Geographical Studies and 6 points higher than “Geography and Planning”. Yesterday Aspa emailed everyone to suggest what she thought was a new compromise, “Geographical Studies and Planning” but that is in fact one of the original 6. So that isn’t a new compromise.

If all of you maintain your same preferences (assuming you remember) here is how the results will turn out, and you can do your own analysis with the spreadsheet. For example if you listed “Department of Geography” as your 1st preference, you would, in a vote of just two names now vote for your next highest ranked which might be “Geography and Planning”

Department of Geographical Studies: 8 votes
Department of Geography and Planning 8 votes

And hence we continue with the impasse.

Going with Aspa’s suggestion
Department of Geographical Studies: 8 votes
Department of Geographical Studies and Planning: 5 votes
There were 3 ballots where neither of these names were listed and so depending on how they vote, it could again be a tie vote, or “Geographical Studies” might receive a majority.

It is possible that based on some discussions since we voted some people might, in the spirit of compromise, change their vote, but what they might see as a compromise I can’t predict.

So I mention these complications for you to mull over as I have no clear solution to the impasse.

David
Greetings All:

I know that some of you are traveling and it might be a while until you read this. Please respond as soon as possible. Your response should be sent to Barb Hartkopf so that she can record your vote.

Please indicate which of the following two names for the Department you prefer. Vote for one, and only one name. I realize that based on our “Alternative Voting Method” process, neither of these names were acceptable to some of you. Unfortunately in the end we must make a decision. As I indicated previously, my analysis of all of the rankings on our earlier vote would, if you vote the same preference rankings, result in a tie vote. It is possible that some of you might have forgotten your preferences, but if you kept your sent email you could refer to that. It is also possible that since then you might have changed your preferences, particularly if neither of these two names were your first or second choice. If you wish to abstain, please indicate that to Barb. Please do not abstain by not “returning” the ballot. Clearly indicate to Barb that you are abstaining. Whichever names garners the most votes (that might not be a majority if there are abstentions) will be the name of the Department.

If we end up with a tie vote, then I will consult with our new Dean, Orn Bodvarsson, as to how to proceed.

1) Department of Geographical Studies

2) Department of Geography and Planning

Thanks,

David
Greetings All:

Barb has now received enough ballots that one of the names has received a majority of the votes.

Department of Geography and Planning

I will work with Orn, web site folks and other to institute this change.

David