

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
PLANNING AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION

PRESENTED BY: Lisa Kalynchuk, chair
Planning and priorities committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: October 22, 2015

SUBJECT: **Name change of the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering**

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That Council approve that the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering be renamed the Department of Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering, effective September 1, 2015, and that Council's Bylaws be amended to reflect the new name of the department.

PURPOSE:

The new name of the Department of Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering is requested to create greater awareness of the department as the administrative home of the college's interdisciplinary B.E. [Bachelor of Science] in Environmental Engineering. The name change also meets the recommendation of the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board to the college to provide greater recognition of this program.

CONSULTATION

The name change was undertaken in consultation with the Colleges of Arts and Science, Agriculture and Bioresources, Graduate Studies and Research, School of Environment and Sustainability, and the Departments of Biology, Soil Science, and Chemical and Biological Engineering. On May 11, 2015, the College of Engineering Faculty Council approved the proposed name change. The planning and priorities committee considered the name change

at its meeting on September 16, 2015, and approved a motion at the meeting to recommend the name change to Council.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY:

The graduate programs in Environmental Engineering are administered by the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering. Notwithstanding that the name change was supported by this department, the committee met with Dr. Trever Crowe, associate dean, College of Graduate Studies and Research to discuss whether there were any difficulties associated with having the undergraduate and graduate programs administered by different departments in the same college. After meeting with Dr. Crowe, the committee was satisfied that this arrangement did not pose a significant obstacle to the name change, but has recommended that the indeterminate status of the graduate programs in Environmental Engineering be resolved by the college.

SUMMARY:

The planning and priorities committee supports the change of name to the Department of Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering as the new name will better reflect the identity of the department as the administrative home for the college's undergraduate program in Environmental Engineering. The change of name also complies with the recommendation made by the college's accrediting body.

ATTACHMENTS:

1. *Request for Change of Name for the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering*



**UNIVERSITY OF
SASKATCHEWAN**

Request for Change of Name

This Request form and attachments will be the basis for decision-making about this change.

Submitted by: Dr. Leon Wegner, Department Head

College: College of Engineering.

College approval date: May 11, 2015.

Proposed effective date of the change: October 1, 2015.

1. Proposed change of name

| | From: | To: |
|---|--|---|
| College | College of Engineering | College of Engineering |
| Department | Department of Civil and Geological Engineering | Department of Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering. |
| Program name | - | - |
| Degree name | - | - |
| Name of Field of Specialization (major, minor, concentration, etc) | - | - |
| Course label (alphabetic) | - | - |
| Building | - | - |
| Street | - | - |
| Other | - | - |

2. Documentation

Rationale

Provide a rationale for the change and describe the background leading to this decision.

The Department of Civil and Geological Engineering within the College of Engineering currently administers three undergraduate programs accredited by Engineers Canada: civil, geological, and environmental engineering. When the environmental engineering undergraduate program was approved by University Council on June 19, 2008, the program was centrally administered by the College of Engineering. Since this time, the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering assumed administrative authority over the environmental engineering undergraduate program.

As a means to clarify administrative authority of the undergraduate program, provide greater recognition for faculty responsible for instruction and research activities in the department, as well as to ensure undergraduate students have a stronger sense of belonging, the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering intends to change its name to the Department of Civil, Geological, and Environmental Engineering.

Impact of the change

Please describe any potential impact of this change, including any of the following areas if relevant:

- impact on students
- impact on faculty
- impact on staff
- impact on alumni
- affect on other programs, departments, colleges, centres
- impact on university-wide systems (e.g. SiRIUS, UniFi, PAWS, U-Friend, Library, About US, etc.)
- resource areas such as library resources, physical facilities, and information technology
- external impact (e.g. reputation, accreditation, other institutions, high schools, community organizations, professional bodies).

Please attach any statements or opinions received about this change.

The proposed departmental name change is expected to positively impact both internal and external stakeholders associated with the environmental engineering program.

It is anticipated that undergraduate students registered in the program will develop a greater sense of belonging with the department. Clarifying administrative authority over the environmental engineering undergraduate program will also allow undergraduate students to more effectively engage with the department through better-articulated administrative services.

Faculty members within the College of Engineering will also benefit from the proposed departmental name change, primarily through greater recognition of academic expertise and, in turn, the attraction of research projects. The departmental name change is not expected to impact staff within the College of Engineering to the same extent.

Various units on campus were consulted, including the College of Engineering, the College of Arts and Science, the College of Agriculture and Bioresources, the School of Environment and Sustainability, the College of Graduate Studies and Research, as well as the Departments of Soil Science, Microbiology, and Chemical and Biological Engineering. As a result of these consultations, the department name change is expected to benefit the university community. For instance, greater recognition of the environmental engineering program is anticipated to enhance the research and academic portfolio for the College of Engineering, as well as enhance the marketability of the School of Environment and Sustainability.

While most units endorsed the department name change, the College of Graduate Studies and Research (CGSR) commented that potential confusion may arise over having different departments administer the undergraduate and graduate environmental engineering programs. College senior leadership discussed the feedback from CGSR and determined after reviewing all engineering graduate programs, the college would identify whether reassignment of administrative responsibilities is required. It should be noted that admission into the environmental engineering graduate program is currently suspended, pending review and redevelopment of the program, with no current timeline for this work.

Given that the undergraduate environmental engineering program has already been in existence for a number of years and administered by the Department of Civil and Geological Engineering, the proposed department name change is not expected to impact the college or university alumni network. To ensure any alumni-related enquiries are responded to appropriately, the Alumni Relations and Event Coordinator within the College of Engineering will be informed of the change.

With respect to impact on external stakeholders, the proposed department name change is anticipated to benefit the reputation of both the University of Saskatchewan and the College of Engineering. Such benefit will be realized by allowing for the response to a recommendation made by the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board, the governing body responsible for accrediting undergraduate engineering programs in Canada, as well as by providing clarification on academic authority to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan, a provincial regulator for the engineering profession.

In October 2014, the College of Engineering hosted the Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board. During this visit, all eight undergraduate programs offered by the College of Engineering were awarded accreditation status; however, the board recommended that minor changes be made to the environmental engineering program as a means to strengthen the program. In response, the College of Engineering sought ways to provide better recognition for the program and to develop a stronger sense of community for the program. The proposed department name change is a component of the strategy to address this recommendation.

As with most other stakeholders, the proposed department name change is anticipated to provide clarity on the academic authority of the environmental engineering program to the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan.

Costs

Please describe whether this change will result in any additional costs for the university (ie, repainting signs, technical changes in SiRIUS, PAWS, financial services, etc.)

While marginal, as with most administrative changes, it is anticipated that there will be incremental cost and resource implications associated with the proposed department name change.

In terms of short-term resource implications, there will be incremental resource implications for university-wide systems. For instance, human resources will be required to update the Student Information Systems (Banner/Sirius) and other administrative systems. Given that course codes, names, term descriptors, and descriptions for all civil, geological, and environmental engineering courses will remain unchanged, the only change that will be required is updating the department name (and potentially a departmental code). Administrative assistance will be requested from the central-level to support this change. The Department of Civil and Geological Engineering will also consult with the Registrar to ensure the departmental name change is implemented in a manner that is both efficient and in compliance with university-level policies and procedures.

Aside from updating university-wide systems, incremental costs are also anticipated to be incurred to update college and department-level signage and stationery. Financial resources will be secured from the department budget to support the acquisition of these products, as needed. Incremental costs will also be incurred to update department and college-level websites. This will be coordinated by the Communications Officer within the College of Engineering.

Finally, with respect to library or information communication technology requirements, the proposed department name change is not anticipated to incur incremental costs. Current library and information communication technology requirements are in place to support the civil, geological, and environmental programs as opposed to the department.

Consultation

Please describe any consultation undertaken with other university offices, such as Student and Enrolment Services, Institutional Strategy and Analytics, Institutional Planning and Assessment, Financial Services, Facilities Management, Office of the University Secretary, Information Technology Services, etc. Please attach any memos or emails received about this consultation

To ensure transparency as well as to elicit constructive feedback, the following offices were consulted throughout the planning of the proposed department name change:

- The Office of the University Secretary (Ms. Sandra Calver, Associate Secretary, Academic Governance);
- The College of Engineering (Dr. Charles Maulé, Chair of Faculty Council);
- The College of Arts and Science (Dr. Peta Bonham-Smith, Interim Dean);
- The College of Graduate Studies and Research (Dr. Trever Crowe, Associate Dean);
- The School of Environment and Sustainability (Dr. Toddi Steelman, Executive Director);
- The Department of Biology (Dr. Christy Morrissey, Undergraduate Chair);
- The Department of Soil Science (Dr. Ken Van Rees, Department Head); and
- The Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering (Dr. Mehdi Nemati, Department Head).

Please find attached correspondence which indicates the advice or support of these individuals.

3. Review and Approval Authority

All changes of names for academic entities must be requested by the responsible college, following internal approval by its own approval procedures.

After submission of the Request by the College, the following approval procedures are used, and must be initiated by the College:

- **Changes of course labels** are approved by the Registrar in consultation with the college offering the courses. Any disputes arising over course label changes will be referred to the Academic Programs Committee for resolution. Course label changes are to be distributed for information through the Course Challenge system.
- **Changes of names for colleges and departments** are approved by University Council (following recommendation by the Planning & Priorities Committee) and by the Board of Governors.
- **Changes of names for degrees or a degree-level programs** are approved by University Council
- **Changes of names for fields of specialization** are approved by the Academic Programs Committee of Council.

- **Changes of names for buildings, streets and other physical entities** are approved by the Board of Governors (following recommendation by the Naming Committee).

If you have any questions about this form or these procedures, please contact the Office of the University Secretary or email university.secretary@usask.ca