ACADEMIC UNIT CHANGES TO NAME OR DEGREE DESIGNATIONS

According to the bylaws of the university, the “…functions of the University Faculty shall be to consider questions of educational policy which concern more than one college, school or separate academic unit, or are general in nature…”

Responsibility of: Committee on Academic Programs and Policies. The Committee concerns itself with academic programs and policies which are independent of or extend beyond the single or joint jurisdiction of a school or college faculty; policies governing the use of, and plans for, university-wide academic facilities and services, such as libraries, classrooms, and computers; and proposals for new degrees (including the combination, modification or abandonment of old degrees. It reports to the Faculty Senate.

November 14, 2001, Records, pp. 9298-9299S, Appendix 4

Professor Terrence Fine, Electrical and Computer Engineering, and Chair, Committee on Academic Programs and Policies, said that in the recent past, there have been a number of name changes to departments. As an example:

Geology™ Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Electrical Engineering™ Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Committee recommends that the Provost undertake to inform all departments of an impending name change or designation of degree, given the indirect nature currently in use for informing the community.

On a vote call, the resolution passed unanimously as follows:

Whereas, academic boundaries are shifting and departments across the university seek to change their focus, their department name, and often the title of their degree to reflect new realities and interests, and

Whereas, these moves are often related to the areas of interest of other units in different colleges in ways that may not be apparent to the unit proposing the change,

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Faculty Senate requests that the Provost require all academic units (e.g. departments, schools, centers, programs),
seeking to change their name or the designation of their degree awarded, to so inform (e.g. via the Deans, Directors, and Department Heads list) the heads of all other academic units, with notice sufficient (e.g. perhaps two months) for timely and informed response prior to the contemplation of final approval for these changes. The unit heads are then requested to inform their faculties of the contemplated actions, elicit discussion if appropriate, and share with the Provost, Dean of Faculty, and College Deans any concerns their units may have about the impact of these contemplated changes.