

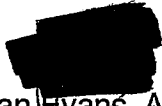
UC 8855 06S

U N I V E R S I T Y of H O U S T O N

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
Office of the Dean

214 Science & Research  
Bldg 1  
Houston, TX 77204-5008  
www.uh.edu/academics/nsm

713/743-2611  
Fax: 713/743-8630



Memorandum

RECEIVED MAR 01 2006

From: Ian Evans, Associate Dean

EFFECTIVE SEMESTER  
FALL 2008

To: Marsha Daly

Needs CB approval

Subject: Items for review by Undergraduate Council

APPROVED SEP 20 2006

Date: 28 February 2006

The Curriculum Committee of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics met on Monday February 27<sup>th</sup> to deal with two issues that had been forwarded to the committee.

**ITEM 1** – a request from the Department of Geosciences requesting that the name of the department be changed to the “Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences”. Following a brief discussion, there were no objections and the committee approved the change unanimously. A copy of the letter requesting the name change accompanies this report.

**ITEM 2** – a request from the Department of Computer Science for some modifications in the requirements applied to students requesting to change their major to computer science. Specifically the request was to change the requirements for University of Houston students who have earned 15 or more semester hours of college credit. There were no changes for UH students who have earned fewer than 15 semester hours of college credit.

The following changes were discussed and approved by the Curriculum Committee:

UH students who have earned 15 or more semester hours of college credit must have all of the following:

1. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 or better in all courses at UH.
2. Must have completed at least one UH Computer Science course and one UH Math course both of which are applicable to the degree.
3. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 or better in all UH Computer

Science courses applicable to the degree

4. Must have a grade point average of 2.5 or better in all UH Math courses applicable to the degree

The director of undergraduate studies may use his/her discretion, with the approval of the chair of the department, in exceptional cases.

# U N I V E R S I T Y of H O U S T O N

Department of Geosciences

312 Science & Research  
Bldg 1  
Houston, TX 77204-5007

713/743-3399  
Fax: 713/748-7906

RECEIVED MAR 01 2006

Januray 31, 2006



To: The Dean of the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics:  
And The NSM College Curriculum Committee.

From: Dr. John F. Casey

As you may know, the Geosciences Department has added recently developed degree programs in Atmospheric Sciences as part of the College's Environmental Sciences B.S. Degree Program in addition to traditional degree programs in Geology, Geophysics, and Earth Sciences. The Departmental options under this new degree program include environmental geology and environmental atmospheric sciences. To date there are currently 13 undergraduate majors seeking degrees in one of these two options in Environmental Sciences, with the major growth in environmental atmospheric sciences. In addition, we have added four professors in atmospheric sciences to the Geosciences faculty that conduct research in air pollution modeling, meteorology, atmospheric chemistry, and global climate change. As the atmospheric research program has grown, our graduate program has continued to add graduate students conducting research in atmospheric sciences at the Ph.D. and M.S. levels. Currently these degrees are awarded under an atmospheric option within Geophysics, but we have recently applied for full degree programs with a more appropriate Ph.D. and M.S. degree in Atmospheric Sciences. We continue to expand and broaden the program with an atmospheric chemistry component. The proposed graduate program has received College approvals and is now with the University committees and administration for final approvals. The Department and University has also recently received national recognition and membership in UCAR (University Center for Atmospheric Research) because of its strong research and educational programs in atmospheric sciences. In addition, a proposal to make TSU and the University of Houston a NOAA Atmospheric Sciences Cooperating Center is now under review. As a consequence of these changes, recognition and broadening of academic and research programs within non-traditional areas of atmospheric sciences, the Department of Geosciences voted on November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005 by an overwhelming majority (19 affirmative, 1 negative, and 4 abstentions) to rename the Department of Geosciences to the *Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences*. This new name:

1. provides more exposure for the non-traditional atmospheric components of the department and our new related degree programs, which should attract talented students,
2. maintains recognition for traditional Earth Science programs in geology and geophysics



3. provides departmental naming consistency with other geosciences programs, like ours, that have a combination of geology, geophysics, and atmospheric sciences degree programs (e.g., MIT, Iowa State, etc.),
4. will assist in recruitment of talented undergraduate and graduate students, as well as new faculty, in the atmospheric sciences.
5. will, through its recruitment advantages, help to provide an environmental work force for Texas and focus more student research on Houston's environmental quality issues including air and water quality.
6. will assist in the growth of the regions sustainable development efforts that are so important in health and socio-economic well being of Texas residents.


We request your consideration and approval for this change in order to forward the request on to the administration and appropriate University committees for final University approvals.


Sincerely,

  
John F. Casey, Chairman

Cc: College Curriculum Committee  
Dr. Ian Evans, Associate Dean

For approval, please sign below.

  
Dr. John Bear, Dean NSM

 28 Feb 2006  
College Curriculum Committee

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON

J.W.D.



# TEXAS HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD

Academic Affairs and Research

P.O. Box 12788 Austin, Texas 78711 • 1200 East Anderson Lane 78752

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON  
DATE RECEIVED

MAY - 1 2008

OFFICE OF THE  
SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

April 25, 2008

Joseph H. Stafford, Ph.D.  
Assistant Commissioner  
Academic Affairs and Research  
joseph.stafford@thecb.state.tx.us

David Couch, Ed.D.  
Director, Professional Programs  
david.couch@thecb.state.tx.us

Linda Domelsmith, Ph.D.  
Director, Research Programs  
linda.domelsmith@thecb.state.tx.us

Dr. Donald Foss  
Sr. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost  
University of Houston  
214 E. Cullen Building  
Houston, TX 77204-2019

Richard Metzler, Ph.D.  
Director, Academic Programs  
richard.metzler@theb.state.tx.us

Dear Dr. Foss:

I am pleased to approve at the staff level the request from the University of Houston to change the name of the Department of Geosciences (1320) to the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences (0795).

Enclosed is an Information Sheet for your reporting official that reflects an implementation date of April 25, 2008.

Sincerely,

For Joseph H. Stafford

Enclosure

cc: Chancellor/President Renu Khator