

Submitted by: Keith E. Whitfield, Provost

CHANGE IN THE NAME OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FUNDAMENTAL AND APPLIED SCIENCES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors change the name of the Department of Fundamental and Applied Sciences to the Department of Applied Health Sciences, effective Fall, 2018.

Background

The original title of the department of 'Fundamental and Applied Sciences' was adopted in 2003, with the creation of two separate departments, Health Sciences and Fundamental and Applied Sciences within the Health Sciences division in the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences. The cluster of programs contained within Fundamental and Applied Sciences were Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences, Mortuary Science, Clinical Laboratory Science, Pathologists' Assistant and the Post Bachelor Forensic Investigation Certificate program. Occupational and Environmental Health Sciences had a primary focus of applied and basic research supported by external funding. With the closure of this program under former Dean Lloyd Young, the remainder of programs in Fundamental and Applied Sciences retained a primary focus of discipline specific teaching in specialized accredited programs.

The proposed change in name of Fundamental and Applied Sciences was recommended as a result of analysis of the title provided by applicants, current students, stakeholders and advisory committee members who felt the original title supported more of a 'fundamental' or basic research focus of the department rather than the teaching focus of the individual programs contained. Applicants wanting admission to mortuary science, pathologists' assistant, clinical laboratory sciences or forensic investigation found difficulty in locating these programs under the current banner associated with the current name of the department. In this regard, difficulty in identifying with or locating a specific program of interest could have contributed to recent decline in application numbers observed with certain programs. The name change to Applied Health Sciences better represents departmental program focus to new applicants and interested parties. It better aligns the department with the department of Health Care Sciences within the Health Sciences division. Once approved, the new proposed name will be submitted to the specialized accrediting agencies that accredit individual programs within the department and will not result in changes to budgetary requirements or facility structure.

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the Department of Fundamental and Applied Sciences faculty, the Associate Dean for Health Sciences and the Dean of the Eugene Applebaum College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences and the Provost.