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## Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

**PROPOSAL TITLE:** Change the name of the Department of Animal Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior.

**SPONSOR:** Andrew Suarez, Professor and Head, Department of Animal Biology, 244-6631, [suarez2@illinois.edu](mailto:suarez2@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:** Kelly Ritter, Associate Dean of Academic Programs, LAS, 333-1350, [ritterk@illinois.edu](mailto:ritterk@illinois.edu)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:** The Department of Animal Biology seeks to change its name to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior. This change will not affect any program requirements. The faculty in the Department voted 10-0 in favor of this name change on September 25, 2018. On October 9, we held a School-wide meeting to discuss the name change. On October 24-25, the faculty from the School of Integrative Biology (Departments of Plant Biology and Entomology) voted 20-1 in favor of the name change. The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Executive Committee approved the proposal. The LAS faculty present at the Nov 13, 2018 faculty meeting unanimously approved the proposal (39-0-0).

**JUSTIFICATION:** The Department of Animal Biology, a graduate degree granting program within the School of Integrative Biology, is proposing to change its name to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior. This change is motivated by the following primary concerns with the name Animal Biology: 1. Animal Biology is not a recognized discipline which has hindered our ability to recruit graduate students and be compared to appropriate peer programs at other institutions. 2. The name Animal Biology does not reflect the teaching or research mission of the faculty. 3. The name Animal Biology is routinely confused with the Department of Animal Sciences (in the College of ACES) by faculty on campus and graduate student applicants.

Motivation for this change stem from long-standing concerns held by the Departmental faculty along with the recommendations of our 2017-2018 external review. The external review committee's top recommendation was for the Department to change its name as summarized by this quote from their final report: *"Perhaps the most difficult problem facing the Department of Animal Biology is that of defining its unique identity, which has implications for levels of national recognition and graduate recruiting. The existing structure has been largely determined by the needs and desires of the other two very strong units in SIB to emphasize their identities as taxon-based scientists. In contrast, Animal Biology largely comprises faculty who emphasize their focus as ecologists, evolutionary biologists, or organismal biologists, although they also have deep knowledge of the organisms with which they work. The current name of Animal Biology does not reflect this identity. As a result, despite the very strong individual faculty in the department, the department does not appear in lists of top-ranked programs in the discipline and has a more difficult time attracting top graduate applicants."*

Renaming our Department to Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior will help us achieve several goals: 1. Provide a similar name for the Department and our current Graduate Degree Biology-concentration in Ecology, Ethology and Evolution. 2. Allow us to be identified by disciplines that best fit our teaching mission and our faculty's research strengths. 3. Promote collaboration and affiliation with faculty from other units on campus who primarily identify as evolutionary biologists. 3. Allow us to be compared to and ranked with comparable departments at peer institutions including Departments of Ecology, Evolution and Behavior (i.e. Minnesota, Maryland), and Departments of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology (i.e. Michigan, UCLA, Princeton, Yale, and Cornell) 4. Provide an identity that is forward thinking, will improve faculty and graduate recruitment, and will increase visibility of research in the School of Integrative Biology and in Biology generally on campus.

Our proposed name overlaps with that of the campus-wide graduate Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology, however, our units are distinct and serve different missions. We will work to ensure that graduate students are aware of the respective expectations of each unit. Moreover, we will seek guidance from other Universities that house highly ranked programs with both Departments and campus-wide programs in Ecology and Evolution including the University of Chicago, Cornell University, and the University of California, Davis.

#### **BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

##### **1) Resources**

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal?

The change in Department name will not require additional staffing or expenditures.

- b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?

The change in Department name will be able to support all existing programs and functions and will not need to create additional capacity or surplus.

- c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.

The only anticipated costs are those related to revising promotion materials (website, digital letterhead, etc.). These costs will be covered with the current operating budget and we will not need additional support from campus.

- d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.

No financial arrangements are needed.

##### **2) Resource Implications**

- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc.

The name change will not require any internal reallocation of resources. It will also not result in changes to class size, teaching loads, or student faculty ratio. The Department is a graduate program only, all undergraduate teaching is administered at the School level.

- b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units.

The name change will not involve changes in class size, teaching loads or student faculty ratios. The name change will also not affect course enrollments in other units. See attached letters of support for further information.

- c. Please address the impact on the University Library

There is no anticipated impact on the University Library. A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian is attached.

- d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.)

There is no anticipated impact of the name change on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Fall 2019

**STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:** Name of Department in catalog should be: Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior.

**CLEARANCES:**

Signatures:

*Andy Suny*

Unit Representative:

Oct 19, 2018

Date:

*Carla E. Laines*

School Representative:

October 22, 2018

Date:

*Kelly R. H.*

College Representative:

2-4-19

Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

University Library

Office of University Librarian and Dean of Libraries  
230 Main Library, MC-522  
1408 West Gregory Drive  
Urbana, IL 61801



September 20, 2018

Andy Suarez  
Animal Biology  
suarez2@illinois.edu

Dear Prof. Suarez:

The University Library recently received a proposal from you outlining plans to change the Department of Animal Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Behavior.

It is our belief that there will be no impact on the University Library. We are already supporting this program and see no meaningful changes in our operations as a result of this move.

Sincerely,



John P. Wilkin  
Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson  
Dean of Libraries and University Librarian

e-c: Thomas Teper  
Kelli Trei



## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Microbiology  
B103 Chemical & Life Sciences Laboratory, MC-110  
601 S. Goodwin Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801-3658

September 23, 2018

Andrew Suarez, PhD  
Professor and Head  
Department of Animal Biology

Dear Andy,

The faculty of the Department of Microbiology fully support your proposal to change the name of the Department of Animal Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Behavior. Indeed, given the central importance of microbial ecology and evolution in biological and environmental ecosystems as well as animal health and disease, we anticipate increased interactions between our departments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James M. Slauch".

James M. Slauch, Ph.D.  
Professor and Head of Microbiology  
Director, Medical Scholars Program



## COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER & ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences  
W-503 Turner Hall, MC-047  
1102 S. Goodwin Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801-4730

October 12, 2018

Dr. Andy Suarez  
Head, Department of Animal Biology  
College of LAS, UIUC

Dear Dr. Suarez:

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences (NRES) fully supports the proposed name change of the Department of Animal Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior. The new name aligns far better with the department's programmatic strengths and provides clarity about the department's identity. Unnecessary confusion with other departments such as Animal Sciences is also eliminated. The department is to be commended for their vision in proposing the name change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeffrey D. Brawn".

Jeffrey D. Brawn  
Professor and Head  
Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[jbrawn@illinois.edu](mailto:jbrawn@illinois.edu) ; 217-244-5937



## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Department of Psychology  
308 Psychology Building, MC-716  
603 E. Daniel St.  
Champaign, IL 61820-6232

September 18, 2018

Dr. Andrew Suarez, Head  
Department of Animal Biology

Dear Dr. Suarez:

I write on behalf of the Psychology Department to support the name change for the Department of Animal Biology. The new title is very strategic and does a much better job of reflecting the interests and strengths of the department. As a statement of identity it is very distinct from the Psychology department, and I do not have any concerns that it will conflict with our own interests in any way. Indeed, I view the identities of the two departments as complementary and synergistic in ways that have yet to be fully leveraged, and hope that the name change will foster more and richer interactions.

I agree with the outside reviewers of your program that this change will help you in recruiting and hiring and in promoting the success and visibility of your department. To the degree that your department is successful in recruiting top graduate students and junior faculty, it benefits the Psychology Department by virtue of the many shared interests and potential collaborations with our faculty. We have faculty in areas such as Behavioral Neuroscience and other basic and applied areas with interests and expertise in animal behavior, and the potential for rich interactions increases as we strengthen both departments.

We wish you the best of luck in further elevating your reputation and increasing your successful recruitment of top students and faculty.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Heller".

Wendy Heller  
Professor and Head



## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Program in Ecology, Evolution, & Conservation Biology  
286 Morrill Hall, MC-120  
505 S. Goodwin Ave.  
Urbana, IL 61801

Dr. Andrew Suarez  
Professor and Head  
Department of Animal Biology  
College of LAS

October 18, 2018

Dear Dr. Suarez,

The Program in Ecology, Evolution, and Conservation Biology (PEEC) fully supports the proposal for the Department of Animal Biology to the Department of Ecology, Evolution, and Behavior. The proposed name better reflects the breadth of research and teaching carried out by the department, and should aid in student recruiting by clarifying the mission of the department. We anticipate increased synergy between the renamed department and the PEEC graduate program.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Angela Kent".

Angela Kent, Professor  
Director, Program in Ecology, Evolution and Conservation Biology



## COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Department of Bioengineering  
1102 Everitt Laboratory, MC-278  
1406 W. Green St.  
Urbana, IL 61801

February 14, 2019

Andrew Suarez  
Professor and Head  
Department of Animal Biology

Dear Andy:

The faculty of the Department of Bioengineering support your proposal to change the name of the Department of Animal Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Behavior. You are responding to recommendations of an external advisory committee to adjust your brand to match current efforts of department faculty and the interests of prospective students. The change seems appropriate.

Sincerely,

Michael Insana

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Insana".

Donald Biggar Willett Professor in Engineering  
Interim Head, Department of Bioengineering



## COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

Office of the Dean  
110 Huff Hall, MC-586  
1206 S. Fourth St.  
Champaign, IL 61820

February 21, 2019

Dear Professor Suarez:

On behalf of the College of Applied Health Sciences (AHS) I have reviewed the proposal to change the name of the Department of Animal Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology and Behavior.

While I believe there may be some overlap in our interests, I see these as opportunities instead of problem. The name change to not present any problems for any of the degree programs in AHS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cheryl Hanley - Maxwell".

Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell, PhD  
Dean

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanson Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



February 5, 2019

**Gay Miller, Chair**  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to rename the Department of Animal Biology.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathryn A. Martensen".

Kathryn A. Martensen  
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: A. Elli  
K. Ritter  
A. Suarez  
C. Caceres  
A. Edwards  
E. Stuby



## COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

Office of the Dean  
2090 Lincoln Hall  
702 S. Wright St.  
Urbana, IL 61801

February 4, 2019

Kathryn Martensen  
Associate Provost  
Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
207 Swanlund Administration Building  
MC-304

Dear Kathy:

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences has voted to approve the following proposal:

### **Change the name of the Department of Animal Biology to the Department of Evolution, Ecology, and Behavior**

This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation in Fall 2019.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Ritter".

Kelly Ritter  
Associate Dean

enclosures

C: Professor Andrew Suarez  
Professor Carla Caceres