

APPROVED BY SENATE
10/16/2023



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee to Rename a Unit

1. **CURRENT UNIT NAME:** Department of Atmospheric Sciences
2. **SPONSOR NAME:** Robert J. Trapp, Professor and Head of Atmospheric Sciences, LAS
3. **SPONSOR EMAIL:** jtrapp@illinois.edu
4. **COLLEGE CONTACT** (for units housed within a College): Prof. Stephen R. Downie, Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy, LAS
5. **COLLEGE CONTACT EMAIL:** sdownie@illinois.edu
6. **TITLE OF PROPOSAL:** Proposal to Rename the Department of Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.
7. **DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** Spring 2024
8. **JUSTIFICATION:**

When the Department of Atmospheric Sciences was created in 1982, the original faculty was composed almost entirely of atmospheric dynamicists, and thus the departmental name was well suited and appropriate. The scholarly activities and interests of the current faculty are considerably more diverse now than in 1982: Now, we are a faculty of meteorologists, climate scientists, hydroclimatologists, atmospheric physicists, atmospheric chemists, as well as atmospheric dynamicists. We lead and are key contributors to domestic and international climate assessments, including the U.S. National Climate Assessment, and the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We lead and are key contributors to domestic and international field campaigns focused on the meteorology of high-impact weather systems. And, we lead and are key contributors to innovative, high-profile studies of the physics, chemistry, and dynamics of atmospheric processes. Of relevance to this name-change proposal is that nearly all our faculty members have some component of climate science in their respective research portfolios; most additionally have an underlying meteorological application to their research, especially as related to weather forecasting. Accordingly, we publish extensively in the *Journal of Climate*, the *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, *Climate Dynamics*, and *Nature Climate-Change*, as well as in *Weather and Forecasting*, *Monthly Weather Review*, *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, and the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*. As stated in our strategic plan, our

goal is to expand our scholarly activities into the prediction at the climate-weather interface, and the assessment of weather and climate risk, including that due to a changing and variable climate.

Thus, to reflect the current and future interests and activities, the faculty of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences unanimously endorses the addition of “climate” as well as “meteorology” to its departmental name, and the retention of “atmospheric sciences”. For reference, we define *climate science* as the pursuit of the natural forces that control the long-term characteristics of the Earth system, including its temperature, humidity, precipitation, and wind. We define *meteorology* as the study of atmospheric processes and phenomenon, especially as these relate with weather forecasting. We define *atmospheric sciences* as studies of the fundamental physics, chemistry, and dynamics of atmospheric processes that underly both climate science and meteorology.

In a discovery major such as ours, recognition and branding are paramount to our success. A limited, informal poll of students at UIUC shows that we currently lack recognition of our existence (none of the respondents realized that a Department of Atmospheric Sciences exists at UIUC) and of our disciplinary identity (the majority of the respondents could not explain what is meant by “atmospheric sciences”). In contrast, the key words of “climate” and “meteorology” were well recognized and generally understood.

This unfortunate issue with disciplinary recognition extends to the general public as well as to prospective students. Critically, this is hampering progress toward our strategic goals regarding enhanced visibility of our department (#10), and enhanced enrollment in our undergraduate program (#5). Indeed, some of our peer institutions are benefitting from the competitive advantage of an explicit distinction between meteorology and atmospheric sciences. For example, we now compete with Penn State’s Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences. Based on correspondence with prospective students, we are losing enrollment to the programs making such a distinction.

The additional inclusion of the term climate science in academic department names is uncommon, but it is here that we feel we can lead our peer institutions. We are aware of the Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering at the University of Michigan, which has a rather different focus than our program at UIUC. Thus, we have the unique opportunity of proactively gaining the competitive advantage over our peers (e.g., see Table 1) in terms of the recruitment of students with interests in climate science. In addition, bringing our climate science focus to the forefront in our departmental name also helps communicate to other units on campus that we conduct this research and are available as a resource for collaborative efforts with respect to climate and climate change.

Table 1. Listing of names of relevant departments (or programs) in Big 10 universities.

<i>Big 10 University</i>	<i>Department (or Program) Name</i>
University of Michigan	Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering
Penn State University	Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences

University of Wisconsin	Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
Purdue University	Earth, Atmospheric, and Planetary Sciences
Indiana University	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
University of Nebraska	Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
University of Maryland	Atmospheric and Oceanic Science
Ohio State University	Atmospheric Sciences (program)
Rutgers University	Meteorology (program)

9. BUDGETARY IMPLICATIONS:

A. What are the budgetary implications?

There are no budgetary implications other than costs related to the printing of new business cards, banners, and other signage. These costs will be incurred by the department using its ICR funds.

B. Will budget lines be transferred?

No budget lines will be transferred.

10. RENAMING IMPLICATIONS: (Are there other campus units with similar names or otherwise closely related (e.g., joint programs or cross-listed courses), or units that might be impacted in other ways with the renaming? If so, have they been informed of this proposal? If yes, document and attach your communication with them.):

There are no other academic units at UIUC engaged explicitly in scholarly activities in meteorology or atmospheric sciences. On the other hand, we acknowledge that the broad impacts of climate and climate change are considered within the research of many faculty members across campus. We are not aware of a single academic unit with a comparable concentration of faculty focused on climate science, which is distinct from the broader term of environmental change. However, the units that could be impacted by the proposed renaming are the Department of Geography and GIS, the Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change (formerly Geology), the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences, and the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. Each of these departments support the proposed name change.

11. SUMMARY OF PROCESS:

A. Process to come to the decision.

Our current issues with disciplinary recognition and branding have been known for more than a decade. Some initial thoughts on the possibility of a name change followed the department’s external review in December 2019, given the recommendation of the review panel to: “Increase visibility of the excellent work of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences throughout the campus and the community.” Further thoughts about a name change stemmed from a departmental retreat in August 2021, during which an evaluation of relevant goals in the department’s strategic plan showed little progress. The final motivation to take action was provided by omissions of our program in national rankings,

and concerns about the impact of such omissions on our student recruitment and enrollments. A name change proposal was introduced during our September 2022 faculty meeting. Numerous discussions at subsequent faculty meetings were held in late 2022 and early 2023, which led to a vote by the Atmospheric Sciences faculty.

B. Process of the unit's faculty approval.

As noted, the discussion and debate at faculty meetings was followed by a vote. The vote to add "climate" and "meteorology" was unanimous, with 15 in favor out of 15 Atmospheric Sciences faculty members (tenure stream and specialized). Two specific names were then proposed: (a) Department of Climate, Atmospheric, and Meteorological Sciences, and (b) Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences. The results on a vote for the specific name are as follows: 2 in favor of option (a), and 13 in favor of option (b). A poll sent to our undergraduate and graduate students yielded a similar preference for option b. Specifically, of the 68 student respondents, 41 indicated a preference for option b, and 21 for option a; 6 students provided alternative suggestions.

C. Public hearing synopsis.

The Senate Educational Policy Committee held a public hearing regarding the proposed name change on September 11, 2023. Notice was published in the Illinois Faculty/Staff Notices (EWEEK) on September 3, 2023. There were no questions or comments from guests in attendance.

D. Process to implement the unit renaming.

Upon final approval of the proposed name and notice of implementation, all printed and electronic materials as well as the signage in the Natural History Building will be updated. The new name will be announced to current as well as former students via email and our social media platforms. We will also begin the process of revising all courses to reflect the new identifier (CMAS). It hoped that all changes will be instituted by the end of the Fall 2024 semester.

12. GOVERNANCE PROCESS: (List the governance levels supporting this proposal in the unit and/or College and the votes taken at each level (see [Statues, Article VIII, Section IV](#) and [Senate Bylaws, Part D., Section 8. C](#)):

At the unit level, the vote to add "climate" and "meteorology" was unanimous, with 15 in favor out of 15 Atmospheric Sciences faculty members (tenure stream and specialized). The results on a vote for the specific name are as follows: 2 in favor of option (a) "Department of Climate, Atmospheric, and Meteorological Sciences", and 13 in favor of option (b) "Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences".

The School of Earth, Society, and Environment voted unanimously in favor of the proposal (33 approve, 0 disapprove) via secret ballot.

The faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences voted (via anonymous webtools survey) overwhelmingly in favor of the proposal (109 approve (94%); 7 disapprove (6%)). Further detail on the procedures followed for the college vote are appended to this proposal.

The [Executive Committee of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences](#) has voted upon and approved unanimously the proposal. While the Executive Committee of the College has 8 committee members representing each of the 8 electoral groups across the college, during this particular meeting and vote, 7 executive members were in attendance at the meeting.

- 13. ADDENDUM** (List all addenda for this proposal that will be attached, e.g. public hearing announcements and meeting minutes, FAQ public document, University Library Impact Letter, letters of support, new Bylaws, other written communication, etc.):

Letters or emails of support are provided by the: School of Earth, Society and Environment; Department of Geography and GIS; Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change; Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences; Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering; College of Agricultural, Consumer, & Environmental Sciences; College of Applied Health Sciences; College of Education; College of Fine & Applied Arts; College of Law; College of Media; College of Veterinary Medicine; Gies College of Business; Grainger College of Engineering; School of Social Work; School of Labor and Employment Relations; School of Information Sciences

- 14. STATEMENT FOR THE ACADEMIC CATALOG** (If there is text in the Academic Catalog, <http://catalog.illinois.edu/>, that will need to be updated as a result of this request, please list the URL(s) of the page(s) and the text to update.):

The updates are to the proposed name: “Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences”, and to the associated 4-letter identifier: “CMAS”.

CAMPUS WORKFLOW NOTIFICATION

Robert J. Trapp		5/3/2023
_____ Unit Representative Name and Signature		_____ Date
Stephen R. Downie		5/10/23
_____ College Representative Name and Signature		_____ Date



Brooke S. Newell

10/4/2023

Provost Representative

Date

Educational Policy Committee Representative

Date

May 10, 2023

Kathy Martensen

Associate Provost for Educational Programs and Success Initiatives

Office of the Provost

207 Swanlund Administration Building, MC-304

Dear Kathy,

The Executive Committee of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences has voted upon and approved unanimously the following proposal:

Rename the Department of Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

The proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee. If you have questions or wish additional information, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Trapp or myself.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Downie

Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy, LAS

sdownie@illinois.edu



COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES

School of Earth, Society, & Environment Administration
3081 Natural History Building, MC-103
1301 W. Green St.
Urbana, IL 61801

April 14, 2023

To: Jeff Trapp
From: Bob Rauber, Director SESE
Re: Name Change for the Atmospheric Sciences Department

Dear Jeff,

I write to give the full support of SESE Administration to the proposal for a name change of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences. The new name directly reflects the research and teaching activities of the Department. Over half the Department faculty are internationally recognized for their research in climate and climate change, and publish papers related to climate in Journals such as the Nature, the Journal of Climate and others. The Department offers a range of courses from undergraduate survey courses to advanced graduate courses in climate, climate change, and climate risk, and just initiated an online M.S. related to climate risk. Concerning meteorology, the Department is a leader in meteorological field research, and is internationally recognized for its research related to storms ranging from winter cyclones and hurricanes to thunderstorms and tornadoes. The Department has placed graduates in in National Centers, National Weather Service offices, and National Laboratories all related to meteorology. Concerning Atmospheric Science, which includes Climate and Meteorological research, but also many other disciplines such as aerosol and pollution research, remote sensing of the atmosphere and others, again the Department has faculty, does research, and teaches courses across these broad areas.

That said, despite the Department’s international reputation with its peers, its activities in the climate and meteorology arena sometimes go unrecognized in key areas because the name. For example, families looking to send their high school students to learn meteorology google search “meteorology” and the department doesn’t come up on the search. Campus faculty organizing climate events sometimes fail to contact the department because they don’t make the connection between climate and atmospheric science. It is time for the change, and you have the support of the SESE administration.

Sincerely,

Bob Rauber
Director, School of Earth, Society, and Environment

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

217.244.4064 • earth.illinois.edu

From: Cidell, Julie L. [cidell@no.s.edu]
Subject: RE: following up: name change in ATMS
Date: Apr 19, 2023 at 10:41 AM
To: Trapp, Robert [trapp@no.s.edu]



Hi Jeff,

I'm so sorry, I meant to write you right afterwards and forgot! We have no issue with the name change.

--Julie

Professor
Department of Geography & GIS
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1301 W. Green St., MC-150
Urbana, IL 61820
217-244-4665

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

1301 W. Green St., MC-150
Urbana, IL 61820
217-244-4665

From: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 07, 2023 7:18 AM
To: Lundstrom, Craig Campbell <lundstro@illinois.edu>; Cidell, Julie L <jjcidell@illinois.edu>
Cc: Rauber, Robert M <r-rauber@illinois.edu>
Subject: name change in ATMS

Julie, Craig:

I wanted to ask for your support of a proposed name change from "Department of Atmospheric Sciences" to "Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences".

The proposed new name much better reflects the diverse activities, both current and future, of the department and its faculty. "Climate" is included because nearly all of our faculty members have some component of climate science in their research portfolio. For example, many of us publish in the *Journal of Climate*. "Meteorology" is included in part because it represents the core of many of our research and teaching activities, and in part due to the growing practice by our peer programs to distinguish meteorology from atmospheric sciences. The result of this practice is that we're losing students to these programs. Finally, based on a very limited poll, these two key words carry much more meaning and are more readily recognized by the general public than simply "atmospheric sciences". However, it is important for us to continue to include atmospheric sciences, since some of our activities are neither strictly climate science nor meteorology.

I've begun to prepare the name change paperwork, and hope to submit it soon to LAS.

Thanks in advance for your support, and please don't hesitate to respond with any concerns or suggestions.

Best regards,
Jeff

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Department of Geology
School of Earth, Society, and Environment
1301 W. Green Street, MC-102
Urbana, IL 61801



April 14, 2023
Prof. Jeff Trapp
Dept. Head, Dept of Atmospheric Sciences

Dear Jeff,

I am writing to express my strong support of the University of Illinois Department of Atmospheric Science's intention to change its name to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences. As you know, we have recently changed our department name for largely similar reasons to those put out in your letter and we have received a warm reception to this change. Your department will also greatly benefit from your proposed change as you rightly perceive that students will more connect with meteorology and climate. I will also add that this name change will also benefit us as members of SESE in further attracting ESES majors and positioning our school better within the Climate-based work of our future. Again, I strongly support the name change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig C. Lundstrom'.

Craig C. Lundstrom
Professor and Department Head
Department of Earth Science and Environmental Change

telephone 217-333-3540 • web geology.illinois.edu



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

Dr. Robert Jeffrey Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences

23 April 2023

Dear Dr. Trapp:

The Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences fully supports your proposal to change your department name from the "Department of Atmospheric Sciences" to the "Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences". The proposed name seems to accurately reflect the current makeup of your department, and it should resonate better with prospective students. As such, we hope that the change advances the branding and recruitment efforts of your department.

Thank you for reaching out about your proposal, and please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert L. Schooley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Robert L. Schooley
Professor and Head

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

217.333.2770 • nres.illinois.edu

From: Barros, Ana <barros@no.s.edu>
Subject: RE: support of departmental name change
Date: Apr 19, 2023 at 11:35 PM
To: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@no.s.edu>
Cc: Barros, Ana <barros@no.s.edu>



Jeff, all positive feedback from my faculty and support for the name change.



Many thanks,
Ana

From: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>
Sent: Friday, April 14, 2023 7:00 AM
To: Barros, Ana <barros@illinois.edu>
Subject: support of departmental name change

Dear Ana,

I am writing to seek your support of a departmental name change. As justified below, we are proposing to change “Department of Atmospheric Sciences” to “Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences”. This would more accurately reflect the current and future activities of the faculty, help us compete with our peers, and help us reach key goals in our strategic plan.

I’m happy to discuss any questions you might have regarding this proposal.

Thank you in advance,
Jeff

When the Department of Atmospheric Sciences was created in 1982, the original faculty was composed almost entirely of atmospheric dynamicists, and thus the departmental name was well suited and appropriate. The scholarly activities and interests of the current faculty are considerably more diverse now than in 1982: Now, we are a faculty of meteorologists, climate scientists, hydroclimatologists, atmospheric physicists, atmospheric chemists, as well as atmospheric dynamicists. We lead and are key contributors to domestic and international climate assessments, including the U.S. National Climate Assessment, and the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We lead and are key contributors to domestic and international field campaigns focused on the meteorology of high-impact weather systems. And we lead and are key contributors to innovative, high-profile studies of the physics, chemistry, and dynamics of atmospheric processes. Of relevance to this name-change proposal is that nearly all our faculty members have some component of climate science in their respective research portfolios; most additionally have an underlying meteorological application to their research, especially as related to weather forecasting. Accordingly, we publish extensively in the *Journal of Climate*, the *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, *Climate Dynamics*, and *Nature Climate-Change*, as well as in *Weather and Forecasting*, *Monthly Weather Review*, and the *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*. As stated in our strategic plan, our goal is to expand our scholarly activities into the prediction at the climate-weather interface, and the assessment of weather and climate



**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER
& ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES**

Office of the Dean
227 Mumford Hall, MC-710
1301 W. Gregory Drive
Urbana, IL 61801

April 25, 2023

Dr. Robert Jeffrey Trapp
Department of Atmospheric Sciences

Dear Dr. Trapp,

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences supports your proposal to change the name of your unit from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences.

You have overwhelming support for this name change, you've provided justification why the current unit's name is too restrictive as it no longer reflects the variety of the research, teaching, and service activities of your department. The name change should also attract more students to the department and position you for additional climate-based work in the future.

Again, the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences supports the name change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Germán Bollero', written over a thin horizontal line.

Germán Bollero, Dean

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

217.333.0460 • aces.illinois.edu



College of Education
Office of the Dean
38 Education Building, MC-708
1310 S. Sixth St.
Champaign, IL 61820

May 2, 2023

Dr. Robert Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
College of Liberal Arts & Sciences
3062 Natural History Building
Via Email: jtrapp@illinois.edu

Re: College of Education support of departmental name change

Dear Dr. Trapp,

The College of Education at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is in support of the proposed name change from the "Department of Atmospheric Sciences" to the "Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences" in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads 'C. Mouza'.

Chrystalla Mouza
Dean and Gutsell Professor of Education

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

217.333.0960 • education.illinois.edu



COLLEGE OF APPLIED HEALTH SCIENCES

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

April 26, 2023

Dr. Robert Jeffrey Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
Natural History Building, Room 3062

Dear Professor Trapp:

I am in receipt of your request for a letter supporting a departmental name change. Based on the rationale provided by you, I fully endorse the change from the "Department of Atmospheric Sciences" to the "Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences". The new name appears necessary to more accurately reflect the academic programs and research in your department and to enhance the visibility of your unit on campus for student recruitment and disciplinary identity. Moreover, I agree that the name change will strengthen your brand nationally as you compete with peers for enrollment.

Again, I fully support your proposal to change the name of your department. Please let me know if additional expressions of advocacy are needed.

Sincerely,

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

Cheryl Hanley-Maxwell, Ph.D.
Dean

From: Hamilton, Kevin <kham@no.s.edu>
Subject: Re: support of College of Fine & Applied Arts of a departmental name change
Date: Apr 25, 2023 at 11:04 AM
To: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@no.s.edu>



Hello Jeff –

I'm happy to support this move. How can I help?

Kevin

KEVIN HAMILTON [he/him/his]
Dean and Professor

College of Fine and Applied Arts
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign | 100 Architecture Building
608 East Lorado Taft Drive | M/C 622 | Champaign, IL 61820
217.332.5833 | kham@illinois.edu
faa.illinois.edu



From: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>
Date: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 at 10:29 AM
To: Hamilton, Kevin <kham@illinois.edu>
Subject: support of College of Fine & Applied Arts of a departmental name change

Dear Dean Hamilton,

I am writing to seek your support of a departmental name change.

As summarized below, we are proposing to change “Department of Atmospheric Sciences” to “Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences”. This would more accurately reflect the current and future activities of the faculty, help us compete with our peers, and help us reach key goals in our strategic plan.

I'm happy to discuss any questions you might have regarding this proposal.

Best regards,
Jeff Trapp

Robert Jeffrey Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Illinois

University of Illinois
Natural History Building, Room 3062
Urbana, IL 61801

office: 217-300-0967
mobile: 765-427-0550
jtrapp@illinois.edu

When the Department of Atmospheric Sciences was created in 1982, the original faculty was composed almost entirely of atmospheric dynamicists, and thus the departmental name was well suited and appropriate. The scholarly activities and interests of the current faculty are considerably more diverse now than in 1982: Now, we are a faculty of meteorologists, climate scientists, hydroclimatologists, atmospheric physicists, atmospheric chemists, as well as atmospheric dynamicists. We lead and are key contributors to domestic and international climate assessments, including the U.S. National Climate Assessment, and the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. We lead and are key contributors to domestic and international field campaigns focused on the meteorology of high-impact weather systems. And, we lead and are key contributors to innovative, high-profile studies of the physics, chemistry, and dynamics of atmospheric processes. Of relevance to this name-change proposal is that nearly all our faculty members have some component of climate science in their respective research portfolios; most additionally have an underlying meteorological application to their research, especially as related to weather forecasting. Accordingly, we publish extensively in the *Journal of Climate*, the *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, *Climate Dynamics*, and *Nature Climate-Change*, as well as in *Weather and Forecasting*, *Monthly Weather Review*, *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, and the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*. As stated in our strategic plan, our goal is to expand our scholarly activities into the prediction at the climate-weather interface, and the assessment of weather and climate risk, including that due to a changing and variable climate.

Thus, to reflect the current and future interests and activities, the faculty of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences unanimously endorses the addition of “climate” as well as “meteorology” to its departmental name, and the retention of “atmospheric sciences”. For reference, we define *climate science* as the pursuit of the natural forces that control the long-term characteristics of the Earth system, including its temperature, humidity, precipitation, and wind. We define *meteorology* as the study of atmospheric processes and phenomenon, especially as these relate with weather forecasting. We define *atmospheric sciences* as studies of the fundamental physics, chemistry, and dynamics of atmospheric processes that underly both climate science and meteorology.

In a discovery major such as ours, recognition and branding are paramount to our success. A limited, informal poll of students at UIUC shows that we currently lack recognition of our existence (none of the respondents realized that a Department of Atmospheric Sciences exists at UIUC) and of our disciplinary identity (the majority of the respondents could not explain what is meant by “atmospheric sciences”). In contrast, the key words of “climate” and “meteorology” were well recognized and generally understood.

This unfortunate issue with disciplinary recognition extends to the general public as well as to prospective students. Critically, this is hampering progress toward our strategic goals regarding enhanced visibility of our department (#10), and enhanced enrollment in our undergraduate program (#5). Indeed, some of our peer institutions are benefitting from the competitive advantage of an explicit distinction between meteorology and atmospheric sciences. For example, we now compete with Penn State’s Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences. Based on correspondence with prospective students, we are losing enrollment to the programs making such a distinction.

The additional inclusion of the term climate science in academic department names is uncommon, but it is here that we feel we can lead our peer institutions. We are aware of the Department of Climate and Space Sciences and Engineering at the University of Michigan, which has a rather different focus than our program at UIUC. Thus, we have the unique opportunity of proactively gaining the competitive advantage over our peers in terms of the recruitment of students with interests in climate science. In addition, bringing our climate science focus to the forefront in our departmental name also helps communicate to other units on campus that we conduct this research and are available as a resource for collaborative efforts with respect to climate and climate change.

From: Amar, Vikram D amar@nois.edu
Subject: Re: support of College of Law of a departmental name change
Date: Apr 25, 2023 at 3:31 PM
To: Trapp, Robert jtrapp@nois.edu



You have our support, thx.

Best wishes,
VA

Vikram David Amar
Dean and Iwan Foundation Professor of Law
University of Illinois College of Law
504 East Pennsylvania Avenue
Champaign, IL 61820
(217) 244-8446
Sent from my iPhone (so please excuse any typos)

On Apr 25, 2023, at 10:32 AM, Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu> wrote:

Dear Dean Amar,

I am writing to seek your support of a departmental name change.

As summarized below, we are proposing to change "Department of Atmospheric Sciences" to "Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences". This would more accurately reflect the current and future activities of the faculty, help us compete with our peers, and help us reach key goals in our strategic plan.

I am happy to discuss any issues you might have regarding this proposal.

Best regards,
Jeff Trapp

Robert Jeffrey Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Illinois
Natural History Building, Room 3062
Urbana, IL 61801

office: 217-300-0967
mobile: 765-427-0550
jtrapp@illinois.edu



College of Media
Office of the Dean
119 Gregory Hall, MC-462
810 S. Wright St.
Urbana, IL 61801

April 27, 2023

Dear Colleagues,

The College of Media supports the name change of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences. The proposed new name better reflects the current focus and activities of the department and presents no issues for the curricula or activities of the departments of the College of Media.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tracy Sulkin'.

Tracy Sulkin
Dean

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

217.333.2350 • (f) 217.333.9882 • media-info@illinois.edu • media.illinois.edu

From: Constable, Peter <constab@illinois.edu>
Subject: RE: support of College of Veterinary Medicine of a departmental name change
Date: Apr 25, 2023 at 11:03 AM
To: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>



Hello – the College of Veterinary Medicine is supportive of your proposed name change. Good luck with the process!

Cheers, Peter

Peter D. Constable BVSc(Hons), MS, PhD, DACVIM (Internal Medicine), DACVIM (Nutrition, Honorary)

Professor & Dean, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois

3505 Veterinary Medicine Basic Sciences Building

2001 S. Lincoln Ave, Urbana, IL 61802

Email: constabl@illinois.edu url: <https://vetmed.illinois.edu>

Tel (217) 333-2760; Fax (217) 333-4628

College of Veterinary Medicine Vision: *We will be a pre-eminent public college of veterinary medicine, provide a transformative educational experience for our students, create and communicate knowledge that changes the world, deliver outstanding clinical service to our patients and clients, and pursue excellence in all our endeavors.*



From: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:38 AM
To: Constable, Peter <constabl@illinois.edu>
Subject: support of College of Veterinary Medicine of a departmental name change

Dear Dean Constable,

I am writing to seek your support of a departmental name change.

As summarized below, we are proposing to change “Department of Atmospheric Sciences” to “Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences”. This would more accurately reflect the current and future activities of the faculty, help us compete with our peers, and help us reach key goals in our strategic plan.

I am happy to discuss any issues you might have regarding this proposal.

Best regards,
Jeff Trapp

Robert Jeffrey Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Illinois
Natural History Building, Room 3062

From: Brown, Jeff <brownjr@no.s.edu>
Subject: RE: support of the Gies College of Business of a departmental name change
Date: Apr 26, 2023 at 2:34 PM
To: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@no.s.edu>



Hi Robert,

Happy to support this.



Jeff

From: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:41 AM
To: Jeff Brown, Dean <busdean@illinois.edu>
Subject: support of the Gies College of Business of a departmental name change

Dear Dean Brown,

I am writing to seek your support of a departmental name change.

As summarized below, we are proposing to change “Department of Atmospheric Sciences” to “Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences”. This would more accurately reflect the current and future activities of the faculty, help us compete with our peers, and help us reach key goals in our strategic plan.

I am happy to discuss any issues you might have regarding this proposal.

Best regards,
Jeff Trapp

Robert Jeffrey Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Illinois
Natural History Building, Room 3062
Urbana, IL 61801

office: 217-300-0967
mobile: 765-427-0550
jtrapp@illinois.edu



The Grainger College of Engineering

Office of the Dean
306 Engineering Hall, MC-266
1308 W. Green St.
Urbana, IL 61801

April 27, 2023

To Whom It May Concern:

The Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is in support of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences changing their name to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rashid Bashir', written over a horizontal line.

Rashid Bashir, Dean
Grainger Distinguished Chair in Engineering
Professor of Bioengineering

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

From: Anderson, Steven G <sandersn@illinois.edu>
Subject: RE: Following up: support of the School of Social Work of a departmental name change
Date: May 1, 2023 at 1:59 PM
To: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>



Hello Jeff,

Sorry for not getting back to you. Yes, I approve of the proposed change. Best of luck.

Steve

STEVEN ANDERSON
Dean and Professor

School of Social Work
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1010 W. Nevada Street | M/C 082
Urbana, IL 61801
217.244.5240 | sandersn@illinois.edu
socialwork.illinois.edu



Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act any written communication to or from university employees regarding university business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure

From: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>
Sent: Monday, May 1, 2023 1:51 PM
To: Anderson, Steven G <sandersn@illinois.edu>
Cc: socialwork@illinois.edu
Subject: Following up: support of the School of Social Work of a departmental name change

Dear Dean Anderson,

My apologies, but I wanted to quickly follow up on this request.

Best regards,
Jeff Trapp



School of Labor & Employment Relations

Office of the Dean
504 E. Armory Ave., MC-504
Champaign, IL 61820-6221

May 1, 2023

Dr. Robert Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign

Dear Dr. Trapp –

On behalf of the School of Labor and Employment Relations, I have reviewed your proposal to change the name of your unit from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences. The proposal indicates that the proposed new name better represents the department's current research, teaching and outreach, and I find this justification for the change persuasive. The proposal also indicates that your faculty overwhelmingly supports this proposed new name for the department.

Accordingly, I am happy to support this renaming of your unit.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ingrid Smithey Fulmer'.

Ingrid Smithey Fulmer
Dean
Milton and Zelda Derber Professor

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

217.333.9221 • if85@illinois.edu • ler.illinois.edu

From: Smith, Linda <lsmith@no.s.edu>
Subject: support of the School of Information Sciences of a departmental name change
Date: May 5, 2023 at 3:17 AM
To: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@no.s.edu>



Dear Professor Trapp,

Dean Santos asked me to respond on her behalf.

The School of Information Sciences supports the proposed departmental name change, given the justification you provide.

Please let me know if you need anything further.

Linda C. Smith
Interim Executive Associate Dean
School of Information Sciences
lcsmith@illinois.edu

From: Trapp, Robert <jtrapp@illinois.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 10:44 AM
To: Santos, Eunice E <eesantos@illinois.edu>
Subject: support of the School of Information Sciences of a departmental name change

Dear Dean Santos,

I am writing to seek your support of a departmental name change.

As summarized below, we are proposing to change "Department of Atmospheric Sciences" to "Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences". This would more accurately reflect the current and future activities of the faculty, help us compete with our peers, and help us reach key goals in our strategic plan.

I am happy to discuss any issues you might have regarding this proposal.

Best regards,
Jeff Trapp

Robert Jeffrey Trapp
Professor and Head
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Illinois
Natural History Building, Room 3062
Urbana, IL 61801

office: 217-300-0967
mobile: 765-427-0550

LAS and SESE Secret Ballot Results for Senate Proposal to Rename Atmospheric Sciences



Downie, Stephen R

To Miller, Nolan H

Cc Nesbitt, Stephen; Trapp, Robert; Holben, Lana M; Amos, Jenny; Wang, Shaowen; Patton, Venetria



Reply

Reply All

Forward



Wed 10/4/2023 8:49 AM

You replied to this message on 10/4/2023 9:44 AM.



Atmospheric Sciences Voting Results.docx
2 MB

Dear Nolan,

Attached is a memo detailing the recent results of the secret ballots carried out by LAS and SESE to support the name change of the Dept of Atmospheric Sciences. As you will read, support continues to be overwhelmingly positive across campus for the department's name change.

I understand you will append this memo to the proposal to rename the unit and move the revised document to the Senate for, hopefully, consideration at their October meeting.

Thanks again for your help with this!

Cheers,

Stephen

--

STEPHEN R. DOWNIE

Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2090 Lincoln Hall
702 S Wright St | M/C 448
Urbana, IL 61801
217.333.1350 | sdownie@illinois.edu
sib.illinois.edu/profile/sdownie



Under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act any written communication to or from university employees regarding university business is a public record and may be subject to public disclosure.

October 4, 2023

Nolan H. Miller
Chair, Senate Educational Policy Committee

Dear Nolan,

On September 25, 2023, the following email and ballot went out to all faculty in the College of LAS (totaling 693 individuals on the LAS-FAC email list). An anonymous Webtools Survey was used to carry out the required secret ballot for the renaming of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences. As you know, a vote of the faculty by secret written ballot is required by the University of Illinois System Statutes for the renaming of an academic unit.

Faculty,

Protocol to be followed for approving changes to the names of existing units is outlined in [University of Illinois System Statutes, Article VIII, Changes in Academic Organization of Units; Section 4, Changes in the Organization and Naming of Existing Units](#). As written in the Statutes, "The advice of each unit involved shall be taken and recorded by vote of the faculty by secret written ballot in accordance with the bylaws of that unit." Therefore, we have prepared a voting ballot for all tenure-track faculty in LAS to approve/disapprove of the renaming of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences. Please see the link for voting: <https://surveys.illinois.edu/sec/64822318>. This ballot will close October 2nd. Questions may be addressed to Stephen R. Downie, Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy, at sdownie@illinois.edu

Thank you, Office of the Dean

The ballot was constructed as follows and a link to the proposal to rename the unit was provided:

Proposal to rename the Department of Atmospheric Science in the College of LAS to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences in the College of LAS.

According to the University of Illinois System Statutes, Article VIII, Changes in Academic Organization of Units; Section 4, Changes in the Organization and Naming of Existing Units. A vote by the faculty needs to be taken by secret ballot.

We are asking all faculty with greater than a 0% appointment in the College, regardless of electoral group, are entitled to vote to approve or disapprove the proposed name change.

To view the proposal of the name change please [click here](#). The page will open a new window.

Deadline for completion of voting: *October 2, 2023*

* 1. Proposal to rename the Department of Atmospheric Science in the College of LAS to the Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences in the College of LAS.

- Approve
 Disapprove

At the end of the working day on October 2nd, 116 submissions were received, with the following result:
109 approve (94%); 7 (6% disapprove).

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

217.333.1350 • las.illinois.edu

This overwhelmingly positive approval from those faculty that voted coincides with other positive support received across campus for the unit's name change. This support would include unanimous approval (15 faculty) by the Department of Atmospheric Sciences via secret ballot for the inclusion of the words "climate" and "meteorology" in a new department name, unanimous approval by faculty in the School of Earth, Society, and Environment (SESE; 33 approve, 0 disapprove) via secret ballot for the name change, unanimous approval by the LAS Executive Committee, a public hearing by the Senate Educational Policy committee with no dissenters following a public announcement, and letters or emails of support from all campus units that might possibly be affected by the name change including those from the Deans of 9 Colleges and 3 Schools. Endorsement for the department's name change is unequivocally strong across the entire University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus.

If you have questions or require additional information on the voting carried out, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Stephen R. Downie
Associate Dean for Curricula and Academic Policy, LAS
sdownie@illinois.edu



[Click here to see this online](#)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

EWEEK

NOTICES FOR FACULTY AND STAFF AT ILLINOIS

If you will need disability-related accommodations in order to participate, please email the contact person for the event. Early requests are strongly encouraged to allow sufficient time to meet your access needs.

Announcements for the week of September 3, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Senate Committee on Educational Policy Public Hearing

The Educational Policy Committee will hold a public hearing to discuss renaming the Department of Atmospheric Sciences to the "Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences," and eliminating the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing in Mechanical & Industrial Engineering. Interested parties should notify Barb Lehman via email (bjlehman@illinois.edu) if they plan on attending.

September 11, 2 PM • 232 English Building

[Linda R. Moorhouse, chair](#) • Educational Policy Committee



The Next 150 is the university's five-year strategic plan designed to lay a foundation for generations.

See the full text of the plan at strategicplan.illinois.edu.

Eweek is published by [Public Affairs](#).

[Subscribe](#)

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Archives](#)

[Submit](#)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2023
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

PUBLIC HEARING

As per Section 8, C.4 of its *Bylaws*, on September 11, 2023, at 2:00 pm, the Senate Committee on Educational Policy (EP) held a Public Hearing on two proposals, one for a unit seeking a name change (EP.24.010) and another for the elimination of an institute (EP.24.011). Notice of this public hearing was published through the Illinois Faculty/Staff Notices September 3, 2023 (Eweek) online bulletin.

The following faculty member from the Department of Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences was in attendance: Prof. Francina Dominguez, ATMS Associate Head.

EP.24.010. Rename the Department of Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to the “Department of Climate, Meteorology, and Atmospheric Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

EP Subcommittee Chair Jenny Amos introduced the proposal. When the Department of Atmospheric Sciences was created in 1982, the original faculty was composed almost entirely of atmospheric dynamicists, and thus the departmental name was well suited and appropriate. The scholarly activities and interests of the current faculty are considerably more diverse now than in 1982. Now, they are a faculty of meteorologists, climate scientists, hydroclimatologists, atmospheric physicists, atmospheric chemists, and atmospheric dynamicists. They lead and are key contributors to domestic and international climate assessments, including the U.S. National Climate Assessment, and the assessment reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. They lead and are key contributors to domestic and international field campaigns focused on the meteorology of high-impact weather systems. And, they lead and are key contributors to innovative, high-profile studies of the physics, chemistry, and dynamics of atmospheric processes. Of relevance to this name-change proposal is that nearly all faculty have some component of climate science in their respective research portfolios; most additionally have an underlying meteorological application to their research, especially as related to weather forecasting. Accordingly, they publish extensively in the *Journal of Climate*, the *Journal of Applied Meteorology and Climatology*, *Climate Dynamics*, and *Nature Climate-Change*, as well as in *Weather and Forecasting*, *Monthly Weather Review*, *Journal of the Atmospheric Sciences*, and the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Atmospheres*. To reflect the current and future interests and activities, the faculty of the Department of Atmospheric Sciences unanimously endorse the addition of “climate,” as well as “meteorology,” to its departmental name, along with the retention of “atmospheric sciences.” More information about this proposal can be found in EP.24.010.

- EP Subcommittee Chair Wade Fagen-Ulmschneider asked if the department would be changing the name of their course rubric (ATMS). Prof. Dominguez stated maybe eventually; the department’s new name is too long for an easy rubric corresponding to the new name.
- There were no questions or comments from guests in attendance.

EP.24.011. Eliminate the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing (ICM) in Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, also known as Mechanical Science & Engineering (MechSE).

EP Subcommittee Chair Nolan Miller introduced the proposal. He stated there has been no activity in the ICM for roughly two decades, since the 2003 retirement of the last Executive Director, Professor Clark Bullard. There are no students in ICM, there are currently no budgetary resources allocated to ICM, and there have been no faculty involved in this unit for more than 20 years. The Senate Educational Policy did have an earlier question about the governance process that led to the decision to eliminate the ICM. There were informal, one-on-one conversations with faculty engaged in manufacturing-related research, and retired faculty formerly associated with the Institute for Competitive Manufacturing (ICM), all of whom favored eliminating the ICM. Subsequently, 89 members of the MechSE faculty were contacted for their input regarding the elimination of the ICM, including all active specialized and tenure-system faculty, affiliate faculty (zero-time) from across the Grainger College of Engineering, and emeritus faculty. Only two replies were received, and both favored elimination. The faculty MechSE Advisory Committee voted unanimously in favor of eliminating the ICM. This is essentially an administrative action to remove this unit from college and campus records. More information about this proposal can be found in EP.24.011.

- There were no questions or comments from guests in attendance.

When no further questions or comments were forthcoming about either proposal from those in attendance, Moorhouse thanked everyone and ended the Public Hearing at 2:10 pm.