

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA - CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



GP.11.01
November 8, 2010

September 1, 2010

Mary Mallory, Chair
Senate Committee on General University Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Mallory:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability to be renamed the Prairie Research Institute.

This proposal has been approved by the Vice Chancellor for Research. It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kristi A. Kuntz".

Kristi A. Kuntz
Assistant Provost

KAK/nh

Enclosures

c: R. Iyer
C. Livingstone
W. Shilts

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

RECEIVED

JUN 22 2010

OFFICE of the PROVOST

Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

Fourth Floor Swanlund Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820-5711



June 21, 2010

Ms. Kristi Kuntz, Assistant Provost
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Dear Ms. Kuntz:

I strongly support the request by the Dr. William Shilts, Executive Director of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability, to change the name of the Institute to the Prairie Research Institute, for the reasons stated in his letter to Chancellor Easter (attached). This change will provide the Institute with a unique and appealing name that is geographically appropriate and that makes a connection to the State.

I understand that the next step would be for the Senate to consider this request at its September meeting. Either Dr. Shilts or I would be happy to provide any additional information that the Senate may require, or to address the Senate on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ravishankar K. Iyer', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Ravishankar K. Iyer
Interim Vice Chancellor for Research

encl:

c: Robert Easter, Terry McLennand, William Shilts



General University Policy Proposal

PROPOSAL TITLE:

Rename the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability as the Prairie Research Institute

SPONSOR:

William W. Shilts, Executive Director
179 Natural Resources Building
(217) 333-5111

COLLEGE CONTACT:

Ravishankar Iyer, Interim Vice Chancellor for Research
Fourth Floor Swanlund Building
(217) 333-0034

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

The new name, Prairie Research Institute is parallel to similar institutes such the Great Lakes Research Institute and the Desert Research Institute, a Division within the Nevada System of Higher Education. The Prairie Research Institute name gives the diverse, collective research activities an appropriate geographical context and is unique with the University but with a connection to the State.

JUSTIFICATION:

The rationale is varied but broadly supports a change to assure the long-term visibility and recognition of the home of the State Scientific Surveys at the University of Illinois.

- The name Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability is complex, difficult to say, and not memorable, and because of this, has not resonated or caught on with our staff, constituents, and clients.
- The current name is confusing as is reflected in how we and the Office of Sustainability are covered in the press and are represented in the Campus Stewarding Excellence reports. Even within the Institute, one Division, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) is sometimes confused by the public and press as the Institute, itself, or as the lead agency within the Institute.

- INRS also is frequently confused with NRES in the College of ACES because of the similarity of the names and the similar sounds of the acronyms.
- In another significant conflict of acronyms, INRS has long been known internationally as the Institut National pour Reserche Scientifique in Quebec City. It has many of the same mandates for research areas that we do, including a unit of the Geological Survey of Canada.
- Our name is no longer accurate, in the sense that the addition of the Illinois State Archeological Survey (ISAS) adds cultural resources to our area of responsibility for natural resources.
- Finally, the word “sustainability” is so imprecisely defined that we have found it contributes more confusion than clarity about our mission, function, and service to the state.

Because the Institute is named in Public Act 095-0728, the name change may require a technical legislative amendment. We have been advised by the University Office of Government Relations that it is prudent to proceed with the change now and correct the statutory reference, if necessary, in the next legislative session.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

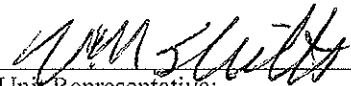
- a. Additional staff and dollars needed – None, although the Institute recognizes the incidental costs of changing business cards, letter head and other small updates.
- b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.) – None
- c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments – None
- d. Impact on the University Library (*A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals.*) – None
- e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc. – None

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2010

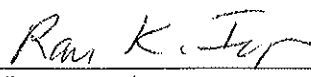
STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG: Not applicable.

CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval) - - These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges, add lines.)

Signatures:


Unit Representative: _____

7/14/10
Date: _____


College Representative: _____

7/16/10
Date: _____

Graduate College Representative:

Date:

Provost Representative:

Date:

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability
179 Natural Resources Building
607 East Peabody Drive
Champaign, IL 61820



June 15, 2010

RECEIVED

JUN 17 2010

VICE CHAN FOR RES

Chancellor Bob Easter
Swanlund Administration Building

Dear Chancellor Easter:

I am writing to request formal approval of changing the name of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability (INRS) to the **Prairie Research Institute**. I appreciate your support of this change in our previous email exchanges. As I outlined then, the rationale is varied but broadly supports a change to assure the long-term visibility and recognition of the home of the State Scientific Surveys at the University of Illinois.

- The name Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability is complex, difficult to say, and not memorable, and because of this, has not resonated or caught on with our staff, constituents, and clients.
- The current name is confusing as is reflected in how we and the Office of Sustainability are covered in the press and are represented in the Campus Stewarding Excellence reports. Even within the Institute, one Division, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (ISTC) is sometimes confused by the public and press as the Institute, itself, or as the lead agency within the Institute.
- INRS also is frequently confused with NRES in the College of ACES because of the similarity of the names and the similar sound of the acronyms.
- In another significant conflict of acronyms, INRS has long been known internationally as the Institut National pour Recherche Scientifique in Quebec City. It has many of the same mandates for research areas that we do, including a unit of the Geological Survey of Canada.
- Our name is no longer accurate, in the sense that the addition of the Illinois State Archeological Survey (ISAS) adds cultural resources to our area of responsibility for natural resources.
- Finally, the word "sustainability" is so imprecisely defined that we have found it contributes more confusion than clarity about our mission, function, and service to the state.

Page Two
Chancellor Bob Easter
INRS Name Change
June 15, 2010

The new name, **Prairie Research Institute** is a name parallel to similar institutes such as the Great Lakes Research Institute and the Desert Research Institute, a Division within the Nevada System of Higher Education. The latter served as a model as we were advocating moving the Surveys to the University. The **Prairie Research Institute** name gives our diverse, collective research activities an appropriate geographical context and is unique within the University but with a connection to the State. Our research has turned up no similar organizations with the proposed name or any other significant issues.

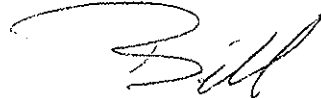
We are in the unusual situation where the Divisions of the Institute have strong historic branding and recognition, but the administrative name of the parent organization is somewhat obscure and ambiguous. I realize that it has only been about two years since we were given our current name, but the longer we keep it, the harder it will be to implement a change. I feel that the time is opportune to deal with this issue. My colleagues leading the Surveys and I believe that the **Prairie Research Institute** name should stand the test of time, is distinctive, and appropriate. The proposed name change was discussed at the May 25th meeting of the Institute's Advisory Board and the Board voted unanimously to support our initiative to change our name.

We propose announcing the change in mid July and have developed an implementation plan which includes working with CITES and Public Affairs, and communicating with the campus, public, key stakeholders, and elected officials. The new name will be accompanied by a new logo, updated web sites, and materials with the new Institute identity. We plan for implementation to be complete by the end of August.

Because the Institute is named in Public Act 095-0728, the name change may require a technical legislative amendment. We have been advised by the University Office of Government Relations that it is prudent to proceed with the change now and correct the statutory references, if necessary, in the next legislative session.

I appreciate your attention to this request and would be happy to provide additional information.

Sincerely,



William W. Shilts
Executive Director

c: Ravi Iyer ✓
Terry McLennand