

December 1, 2003

David W. Pershing
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
205 Park Building
Campus

RE: Proposal to Change Name of Department of Chemical and Fuels
Engineering to Department of Chemical Engineering

Dear Vice President Pershing:

At its meeting on October 27, 2003, the Graduate Council voted to approve a proposal to change the name of the Department of Chemical and Fuels Engineering to the Department of Chemical Engineering.

In 1992, the Department of Fuels Engineering was merged with the Department of Chemical Engineering, resulting in the current department name. The name change proposal asserts that the current joint program name is not consistent with the national trend of department names and that the present name emphasizes one sub-discipline over others.

The proposal also requests graduate degree name changes from M.E., M.S., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in Chemical and Fuels Engineering to M.E., M.S., M.Phil., and Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering. The undergraduate degree offered by the department (B.S. in Chemical Engineering) will remain unchanged.

A copy of the proposal is attached for your approval and transmittal to the Academic Senate.

Sincerely,

David S. Chapman
Assoc. V.P. for Graduate Studies
Dean, The Graduate School

Encl.

XC: Gerald B. Stringfellow, Dean, College of Engineering
Philip J. Smith, Chair, Dept. of Chemical and Fuels Engineering

Request for Department and Program Name Change - Revised
Department of Chemical and Fuels Engineering
October 2003

Request: Change the name of our department to Department of Chemical Engineering. At the annual fall retreat the faculty of the Department of Chemical and Fuels Engineering voted, unanimously, to change the program and department name back to Department of Chemical Engineering. On August 27, 2003 the College of Engineering Executive Committee endorsed the change. Gerald B. Stringfellow, dean of the College of Engineering, has also endorsed this change by a letter which has been submitted to David S. Chapman, dean of the Graduate School. It is now presented to the Graduate Council, Academic Senate and the Board of Trustees for consideration.

Need: In 1992 the Department of Fuels Engineering was merged with the Department of Chemical Engineering, resulting in the current unit and program titles. Over the last several years it has been determined that (1) the joint program name is not comparable to the national trend in our discipline and (2) the joint name emphasizes one sub-discipline over others, neither of which promotes our program and department to alumni, friends, and prospective students. Chemical engineering is the umbrella terminology for our discipline, both in industry and academia. We currently have four research groups; namely, biotechnology, combustion and reaction engineering, materials engineering, and petroleum and fuels engineering.

The Graduate Council expressed concern regarding the current and future status of fuels engineering research. The unification of sub-disciplines under the proposed department and program title in no way implies a de-emphasis on research in the area of fuels engineering. We currently have two full-time, tenured faculty members whose research emphasis is in this area. In our recent hiring cycles we were unsuccessful in offers made to three individuals who could have added to the fuels research area. Due to the recent budget cuts, the most recent faculty retirements have not provided an opportunity to replace faculty.

Institutional Impact: The proposed name change should have little to no institutional impact. The composition of the faculty now and in the foreseeable future will not change. This department will remain focused on the current four areas of research emphasis (biotechnology, combustion and reaction engineering, materials engineering, and petroleum and fuels engineering). The administrative structure will remain the same. Facilities, equipment and space management will remain the same.

Costs: The proposed name change will have no significant financial impact to the department and university.

Practice Elsewhere: Traditionally, departments providing our services have been called Departments of Chemical Engineering. Over the past several years some departments have opted to enlarge their name to include biology in some form (see below) in order to capitalize on the current interest in biological aspects of engineering. Our department has

chosen to keep the traditional name, Department of Chemical Engineering, which is consistent with the name of our professional organization (The American Institute of Chemical Engineering, AIChE). We believe that emphasis of one sub-discipline over others is not consistent with our goal for unity and teamwork among faculty, staff and students. An on-line survey of department names revealed the following listing. At the request of the Graduate Council, additional universities were surveyed. Those in bold were added for this revised petition from a list of peer institutions highlighted by the Graduate School.

Arizona State University – Chemical and Materials Engineering
Brigham Young University – Chemical Engineering
Colorado State University – Chemical Engineering
Cornell University – Chemical Engineering
Iowa State University - - Chemical Engineering
Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Chemical Engineering
New Mexico State University – Chemical Engineering
Ohio State University – Chemical Engineering
Pennsylvania State University – Chemical Engineering
Stanford University – Chemical Engineering
University of California, Berkeley – Chemical Engineering
University of California, Davis – Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
University of California, Irvine – Chemical Engineering and Materials Science
University of California, Los Angeles – Chemical Engineering
University of California, Santa Barbara – Chemical Engineering
University of Colorado at Boulder – Chemical and Biological Engineering
University of Michigan – Chemical Engineering
University of Notre Dame – Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering
University of Washington – Chemical Engineering

Changes in names of degrees offered: The proposed name change does not affect our undergraduate degree. Our undergraduate degree is a B.S. in chemical engineering. We will drop the following degree designations: M.E., M.S., M.Phil, and Ph.D in Chemical and Fuels Engineering. Degrees will be offered at all four levels in Chemical Engineering. Graduate students who are currently seeking a degree in Chemical and Fuels Engineering will be allowed to choose between a degree in Chemical Engineering or Chemical and Fuels Engineering.

Changes in catalog prefix descriptions, course designations, etc.: Areas of specialization, course requirements and course offerings will change in letter designation only; e.g., change from CHFEN to CHEN. No additional courses are needed to support this department and program name change.