

18 December 2008

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

Dear Vice President Pershing:

At its meeting of 29 September 2008, the Graduate Council voted to approve a proposal to change the name of the Department of Meteorology to the Department of Atmospheric Sciences within the College of Mines and Earth Sciences.

The name Atmospheric Sciences reflects the breadth of research in the department, as well as the interdisciplinary research and education efforts. Nationally, a number of Meteorology departments are changing to Atmospheric Sciences, and it is expected that this change may potentially bring in additional research funding and graduate students. The name change is unanimously supported by department faculty.

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

Sincerely,

Frederick Rhodewalt
Acting Dean, The Graduate School

XC: Francis H. Brown, Dean, College of Mines and Earth Sciences
Jim Steenburgh, Chair, Department of Meteorology

Request for Department Name Change
Department of Meteorology
September 2008

Request: Change the name of our department to the *Department of Atmospheric Sciences*. The desire for this name change was voiced by all academic and research faculty at our May 2008 department retreat and approved unanimously (8-0 plus one sabbatical absence) at our September 8, 2008 faculty meeting. We request that this name change be considered by Dr. Francis Brown, Dean of the College of Mines and Earth Sciences and the College of Mines and Earth Sciences executive committee. We will then request that the name change be approved by the Graduate School, Graduate Academic Senate, and Board of Trustees.

Need: The atmospheric sciences have been divided historically into two components: *meteorology*, which examines weather and weather prediction, and *climatology*, which is concerned with climate and climate prediction. When our Department was founded more than 50 years ago, it concentrated primarily on the former. Today, however, our research and teaching endeavors extend across the full spectrum of the atmospheric sciences and include core programs in cloud-climate interactions and remote sensing, numerical modeling and data assimilation, mountain weather and climate, cloud physics and boundary layer meteorology, hydroclimatology, air quality, and wildfire prediction. The proposed name, *Department of Atmospheric Sciences*, accurately reflects the breadth of teaching and research activities within the Department, trends in our profession, and growth in interdisciplinary research and education in areas related to the atmospheric sciences. It will also make our proposals more attractive to external reviewers.

Institutional Impact: The proposed name change should have little or no institutional impact. Our administrative structure, core research programs, and core research facilities will not change. Although it is our desire to continue to grow our faculty, changes in the composition and number of faculty are not requested as part of this name change.

Costs: The proposed name change will have no significant financial impact to the Department, College, or University.

Practice Elsewhere: The number of departments of meteorology is dwindling. The University of Utah is a member of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR), which is a nonprofit consortium of 71 North American universities that grant doctoral degrees in the atmospheric and related sciences. At these 71 universities there are 32 departments, programs, or similar institutional units with atmospheric science or atmospheric physics in their title and only 7 with meteorology in the title. This emphasis on atmospheric science reflects ongoing broadening of the research and teaching activities within our profession. A listing of the names of peer departments below further reflects these trends.

University of Albany, SUNY
University of Arizona
University of California, Los Angeles
Colorado State University
Florida State University
University of Hawaii-Manoa
University of Illinois

Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
Department of Meteorology
Department of Meteorology
Department of Atmospheric Sciences

Iowa State University	Department of Geological and Atmospheric Sciences
University of Maryland	Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Science
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	Dept. of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences
McGill University	Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
North Carolina State University	Department of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
University of Oklahoma	School of Meteorology
Pennsylvania State University	Department of Meteorology
Purdue University	Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Saint Louis University	Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences
Stony Brook University, SUNY	School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
Texas A&M University	Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Washington	Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Wisconsin-Madison	Department of Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
University of Wyoming	Department of Atmospheric Science

Changes in the names of degrees offered: The proposed name change will be reflected in all our degrees. Following the name change, we will offer a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Atmospheric Sciences.

Changes in catalog prefix descriptions designations, etc.: Areas of specialization, course requirements, and course offerings will change in letter designation from METEO to ATMOS. No additional courses are needed to support the name change.