

Request for name change

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1. Request

We propose to change the name of our division from “Division of Foods and Nutrition” to “Division of Nutrition.”

2. Need

Our mission statement reads; “The mission of the Division at the University of Utah is to provide nutrition education to all students including undergraduate and graduate students; develop competent nutrition professionals; increase nutrition and food knowledge through research; and to promote nutrition as an integral component of wellness, health promotion, disease prevention, and therapy.”

Our major goal is to train graduate students to develop broad expertise in clinical nutrition and basic nutrition science. Our Division offers two Masters degree programs and an undergraduate nutrition minor. All programs emphasize clinical and basic science aspects of nutrient utilization in the human body at the physiological and molecular level. Particular emphasis is placed upon the role of nutrient and non-nutrient compounds as modifiers of risk for chronic diseases (i.e., diabetes, heart disease, cancer), and the role of nutrition in optimizing athletic performance. Academics and professionals commonly define this course of study as “nutrition” or “human nutrition.”

We feel that the name “Division of Nutrition” better reflects our mission and our practical emphasis. The current name “Division of Foods and Nutrition” gives the mistaken impression that our division emphasizes food service management, hospitality, and food science. To illustrate our point, our division has previously received requests for catering services, cooking classes, and food analysis services. None of these are within the scope and focus of our division. While we do offer one course in food service management, the majority of our courses focus on the topics previously described.

In summary we feel that changing the name to the “Division of Nutrition” is more in line with the division’s mission and the academic & research focus of the faculty.

3. Institutional Impact

We do not anticipate any significant impact due to a name change. We have good relationships with other departments and divisions within the College of Health and throughout Health Sciences. Many friends and colleagues currently recognize us as Division of Nutrition in “shorthand” terms during our day to day interaction. Therefore it is unlikely that a name change will cause any confusion between departments.

We also believe that class enrollment will not be affected either since many students already recognize our discipline as “nutrition,” not “foods and nutrition.” A name that reflects this conventional wisdom may actually promote our department among students.

Our name change will not affect any administrative and faculty structures, positions, or responsibilities.

4. Costs

We anticipate minimal costs if any, upon the Division, College and University. At the divisional level a name change will require new letterhead, envelopes, and business cards. Since we have recently moved into a new location, we have to purchase updated letterhead and envelopes anyway. Inserting a new name will not alter that cost. New business cards can be produced at minimal cost to the Division.

At the college level, our name would have to be changed in the College of Health web site and brochures. Changing the name from “Division of Foods and Nutrition” to “Division of Nutrition” on the web site would be a simple matter of electronic editing that could be incorporated during regular web site updates. The College of Health brochure is due for an update in Fall 2005, the new division name could be changed at this time, thus no new cost would be incurred.

At the University level, our new name would have to be updated in the General Catalog both electronically (on the web) and in the printed catalog. The electronic update would be cost free since it could be done as part of a regularly scheduled web site update. The University is due to produce a new General Catalog in Summer 2004 and the new division name could be updated at that point, again with no extra cost to the University.

5. Practice elsewhere

A recent web site search using the key words “university, nutrition, and department” found hundreds of departments across the country and around the world. The most common names found were Department of Nutrition, Department of Nutrition Sciences and Department of Food Science and Nutrition. This search revealed only one other program in the United States called ‘Department of Foods and Nutrition’ (The University of Georgia). It should also be noted that only departments with a Food Science program carried the term “food science” in their name. As our department does not contain a food science program it is not appropriate to include the term in our new name. This search demonstrates that changing our name to “Division of Nutrition” is in agreement with conventional practice across the United States and the world at large.

6. Changes, if any in names of precise degrees offered.

The name of the masters degree offered through our division would change from "Master of Science in Foods and Nutrition" to “Master of Science in Nutrition.” The undergraduate minor would change from "Minor in Foods and Nutrition" to "Minor in Nutrition."

7. Changes, if any, in catalog prefix descriptions, course designations, etc.

To reflect our name change we would request to change our catalog course prefix from the current FDNU to NUTR at the next catalog update cycle due summer 2004.