

Adopted: October 25, 2005

**ACADEMIC SENATE  
of  
CALIFORNIA POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY  
San Luis Obispo, CA**

**AS-640-05**

**RESOLUTION ON  
NAME CHANGE FOR THE  
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE**

1 **RESOLVED:** That the College of Agriculture change its name to **College of Agriculture, Food**  
2 **and Environmental Sciences.**

Proposed by: College of Agriculture  
Date: September 20, 2005

State of California



## MEMORANDUM

To: Robert Detweiler  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

Date: September 16, 2005

From: Dave Wehner  
Dean of Agriculture

Copies: Warren Baker

Subject: Changing the name of the College of Agriculture

The College of Agriculture offers a broad array of programs from traditional production agriculture such as Animal Science and Dairy Science to Forestry and Natural Resources; Recreation, Parks, and Tourism Administration; Nutrition; BioResource and Agricultural Engineering; and Wine and Viticulture. Essentially, we have components from each of the other colleges at Cal Poly represented within our program mix. In modern society, the word "agriculture" is typically associated with production of animals or plants for human consumption. The general public is routinely exposed to production agriculture simply by traveling on some of the major highways in the State where they view fields of lettuce, strawberries, and other crops being picked, planted, or irrigated. Because the word "agriculture," by itself, has such a narrow perception, we are requesting permission to change our College name to one which is more inclusive and representative of the diversity of programs that we offer. We also believe that a more inclusive name will help us secure students in the future who are less likely to be coming from traditional agricultural backgrounds.

We developed a strategic vision for the College of Agriculture during the 2003-04 academic year. In one of our vision themes, we set a goal to evaluate the name and structure of the College. In the Spring of 2004, we conducted a survey of the faculty, staff, and students in our College regarding the appropriateness of the name "College of Agriculture" to represent our programs. We received 696 responses from students and 159 responses from faculty and staff. Only 36% of the respondents thought that the name "College of Agriculture" was the most appropriate for our College. A committee was formed to evaluate whether we should change our College name and to develop some possible alternatives. The committee issued their report in January and recommended that the College of Agriculture change its name to the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences.

A national survey of changes occurring in colleges of agriculture was published in 2003 in the *North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Journal*. Of the 52 responding colleges that offered agricultural programs, only 14% still used the name "college of agriculture." Most of the responses indicate that colleges of agriculture had expanded their name to include other

areas of emphasis such as life sciences, environmental sciences, and natural resources. (Note that the current College of Agriculture at Cal Poly was named the School of Agriculture and Natural Resources prior to the early 1990s.)

At a March combined advisory councils meeting, we reviewed our rationale for changing our name with the members of the advisory councils and conducted a survey. The results indicated that we had support for changing our name from 72% of those who responded. Two student forums were held, but student attendance was minimal. A presentation at our Agricultural Student Council meeting indicated that students from traditional production did not support a name change. Final consultation with the faculty and staff occurred through an open forum and via department discussions. In June, the department heads, associate deans, and I made the decision to pursue the name change after the department heads reported positive support from the faculty and staff.

We are requesting that the College of Agriculture become the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences. We believe that the word "food" has universal understanding and since our programs cover the gamut from food production through processing and marketing that it is an appropriate addition to our name. We offer environmental science programs in the form of Forestry and Natural Resources, Environmental Protection and Management, Soil Science, and Earth Sciences so that the words "environmental sciences" help explain what we offer. We are committed to our support of agriculture and our rich tradition of service to the industry such that we want to continue with the word "agriculture" as the first part of our name.

Please let me know if you would like further justification of our request to change the name of the College of Agriculture. I would be happy to make a presentation to the Deans Council covering our request.

State of California  
M e m o r a n d u m

**CAL POLY**

SAN LUIS OBISPO  
CA 93407

To: David Hannings  
Chair, Academic Senate

Date: December 2, 2005

From: Warren J. Baker  
President

Copies: R. Detweiler, D. Conn,  
D. Wehner

Subject: Response to Senate Resolution AS-640-05  
Name Change for the College of Agriculture

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This will formally acknowledge receipt and approval of the above-subject resolution. Based on the support of the Academic Senate and the endorsement of the Academic Deans' Council at its November 7, 2005, meeting, I formally approved of this name change on November 8 (copy attached). The new name will be the College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences.

Please extend my thanks to the Senate for its prompt attention to this matter.

Attachment