MEMORANDUM

TO: John Townshend  
Dean, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences

FROM: Elizabeth Beise  
Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs

SUBJECT: Proposal to Rename the Department of Geography (PCC log no. 11003)

On November 21, 2011, President Loh approved your proposal to rename the Department of Geography as the Department of Geographical Sciences. A copy of the approved agreement is attached.

The change is effective immediately. The School should ensure that the change is fully described in the Undergraduate Catalog, Graduate Catalog, and in all relevant descriptive materials, and that all advisors are informed.

MDC/ 
Enclosure

cc: David Salness, Chair, Senate PCC Committee  
Sarah Bauder, Office of Student Financial Aid  
Reka Montfort, University Senate  
Erin Howard, Data Administration  
Donna Williams, Institutional Research & Planning  
Anne Turkos, Archives  
Linda Yokoi, Office of the Registrar  
Robert Gaines, Undergraduate Studies  
Arthur Popper, Graduate School  
Kathy Beardsley, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences  
Christopher Justice, Department of Geographical Sciences
I am pleased to forward for your consideration the attached legislation entitled, "PCC Proposal to Rename the Department of Geography to Geographical Sciences." Elizabeth Beise, member of the Programs, Curricula, and Courses (PCC) Committee, presented the proposal. The University Senate approved the proposal at its November 9, 2011 meeting.

We request that you inform the Senate Office of your decision as well as any subsequent action related to your conclusion.

Enclosure: PCC Proposal to Rename the Department of Geography to Geographical Sciences
Senate Document # 11-12-13

Approved:  
Wallace D. Loh  
President  

Date: 11/21/11
THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND, COLLEGE PARK
PROGRAM/CURRICULUM/UNIT PROPOSAL

• Please email the rest of the proposal as an MSWord attachment to pcc-submissions@umd.edu.

• Please submit the signed form to the Office of the Associate Provost for Academic Planning and Programs, 1119 Main Administration Building, Campus.

College/School: BSOS
Please also add College/School Unit Code-First 8 digits: 01202800
Unit Codes can be found at: https://hypprod.umd.edu/Html_Reports/units.htm

Department/Program: Geography Department
Please also add Department/Program Unit Code-Last 7 digits: 1281501

Type of Action (choose one):

☐ Curriculum change (including informal specializations) ☐ New academic degree/award program

☑ Renaming of program or formal Area of Concentration ☐ New Professional Studies award iteration

☐ Addition/deletion of formal Area of Concentration ☐ New Minor

☐ Suspend/delete program ☐ Other

Italics indicate that the proposed program action must be presented to the full University Senate for consideration.

Summary of Proposed Action:

The Geography Department proposes to change its name to the Department of Geographical Sciences. This name is in keeping with key National Academy initiatives (Committee on Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences in the Next Decade; National Research Council, Understanding the Changing Planet, Strategic Directions for the Geographical Sciences, National Academy Press, 2011) and better represents our research, bridging human dimensions of global change and earth systems science with geospatial information technologies including remote sensing and GIS.

We have sent notification of the proposed name change to UMD departments in related disciplines (including ENST and ENSP), asking if they had any concerns. No objections to the change were made.

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APPROVAL SIGNATURES - Please print name, sign, and date. Use additional lines for multi-unit programs.

1. Department Committee Chair (or Faculty Advisory Committee) George Hunt 3/14/11

2. Department Chair Chris Justice 3/14/11

3. College/School PCC Chair Martha E. Geores 7/14/11

4. Dean Katherine Pedro Beardsley 4-26-16

5. Dean of the Graduate School (if required)

6. Chair, Senate PCC David Salsness 10/7/11

7. University Senate Chair (if required) 11/7/11

8. Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost Cynthia Bengis 5/2/12
Chris,
The Department of Environmental Science and Technology has no objection to your plan to rename your department the Department of Geographic Sciences.

Best,
Frank

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Frank J. Coale, Ph.D.
Professor and Department Chair
Department of Environmental Science and Technology
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University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742 USA
Tel: 301-405-1306
Email: fjcoale@umd.edu

From: Chris Justice [justice@hermes.geog.umd.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2011 6:25 PM
To: rtourang-contact; Dennis H. Wood; Eric D. Wish; Gary D. LaFree; Sandra L. Hofferth; Jeffrey F. Werling; Kathleen Jane Smarick; Mark Lichbach; Nan Bernstein Ratner; Peter Murrell; Paul A. Shackel; Reeve Doering Vanneman; Sally S. Simpson; Thomas H. Carr; Thomas S. Wallsten; William W. Falk; jtownshe-contact; Wayne McIntosh; Frank J. Coale; ajanetos-contact; carton-contact; Michael Brown; Bruce R. James; Wendy L. Whittemore; Kim Nickerson

Subject: Proposed Department Name Change

Department Chairs and Colleagues

The Geography Department has been undergoing major changes in the past few years with our recent hires who bring strength in the human dimensions of global change and global modeling.

We want to follow the trend of other leading Geography Departments and change our name to better reflect who we are.

We are proposing changing our name to the Department of Geographic Sciences.

As part of the process, if you have any concerns about this proposed name change we would like your input.

Chris Justice

Professor and Chair
Department of Geography
University of Maryland