



Graduate Program in Animal Sciences
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21 February 2007

TO: Harvey Waterman
Associate Dean

FROM: Henry John-Alder
Graduate Director

SUBJECT: Request for change of name of the graduate program
From: Program in Animal Sciences
To: Program in Endocrinology and Animal BioSciences

Last fall, I sent to you our request to change the name of our graduate program from “Animal Sciences” to “Endocrinology and Animal BioSciences”. As you will recall, our proposal met objections in the Biological Sciences Area Committee, and I returned to my faculty with the recommendation of modifying our request to “Integrative Animal BioScience and Endocrinology”. We hastily approved this modification and forwarded it to the Executive Committee, which requested commentary from Dr. Nicola Partridge. Dr. Partridge expressed concerns about our proposal, and the issue was tabled for further consideration in spring, '07.

Within the past week, I have discussed our proposal with Dr. Partridge and I have returned to my advisory committee in Animal Sciences for further deliberation. We considered our rationale and options for a name change in the broader context of our vision for the future together with specific steps to be taken over the next several years to strengthen our program. We are unanimous in our view that our original proposal fit best into our broader goal of calling attention to our concentrated strength in endocrinology and our unique position of being able to complement other programs in biological and biomedical sciences as an explicitly endocrine unit. Our rationale for this proposal is much the same as it was when I originally sent our request last fall. Thus, we agree that our best course of action at this time is to revert to our original proposal to change our name to the Program in Endocrinology and Animal BioSciences. I have consulted with Dr. Partridge and have received her support for our initiative. I trust that the Biological Sciences Area Committee will recognize our predicament and concur with our judgement.

I request that you bring our proposal before the Executive Committee at its scheduled March 6th meeting. It is important for the Executive Committee to consider our proposal at this time so that we will be able to respond to any further concerns well in advance of the spring '07 meeting of the Graduate Faculty.

There is nothing like a little controversy and adversity to sharpen the mind. My discussions with Dr. Partridge were very useful and insightful in a number of unanticipated ways, and I look forward to developing stronger and perhaps more formal ties with her unit in semesters to come. Furthermore, the necessity for my faculty to return to this issue helped us to consider the implications of our proposed name change in a broader and more substantial programmatic context. Thus, as they say in the NBA, no harm – no foul. This process has been frustrating and annoying but ultimately useful and productive for us. We look forward to moving ahead with our plans to become a stronger unit.

Thanks as always for your support.