

Cover Sheet: Request 14612

UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) - Name Change

Info

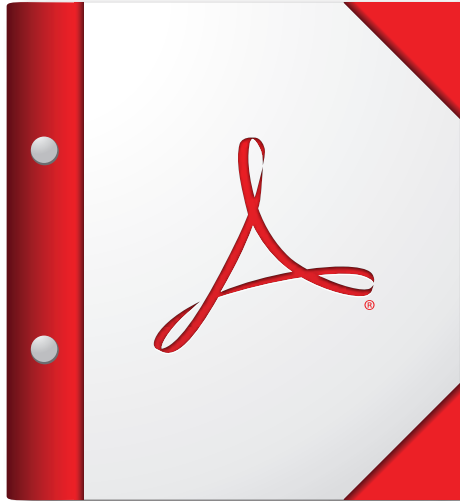
Process	Unit New/Modify/Close Dept
Status	Pending at PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)
Submitter	Casey Griffith cgriffith@aa.ufl.edu
Created	1/15/2020 9:31:12 AM
Updated	1/21/2020 9:12:12 AM
Description of request	Requesting to change the name of the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) to the proposed name: School of Forest, Fisheries and Geospatial Sciences.

Actions

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Department	Approved	CALS - Forest Resources and Conservation 514946000	Terrell Baker III		1/15/2020
Allen Letter Assoc Provost SFRC Name Change.pdf					1/15/2020
UF_AFS letter.pdf					1/15/2020
SFRC Name Change CALS support letter.pdf					1/15/2020
Provost name change-SFRC.pdf					1/15/2020
EMAIL- School of Forest Resources and Conservation -Name change request_C. Hass.pdf					1/15/2020
FWC_UF_121819.pdf					1/15/2020
JackPayneSFRCnamechangesupportletter.pdf					1/15/2020
SFRC Name Change Proposal 12-18-19.doc					1/15/2020
College	Approved	CALS - College of Agricultural and Life Sciences	Joel H Brendemuhl	This request has been approved by the IFAS Faculty Assembly and endorsed by IFAS administration and the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. I approve on behalf of the CALS Curriculum Committee.	1/15/2020
No document changes					
University Curriculum Committee	Pending	PV - University Curriculum Committee (UCC)			1/15/2020
No document changes					
Graduate Council					
No document changes					
Faculty Senate Steering Committee					
No document changes					
Faculty Senate					
No document changes					
Academic Affairs					
No document changes					
Board of Trustees					
No document changes					

Step	Status	Group	User	Comment	Updated
Office of the Registrar					
No document changes					
OIPR Notified					
No document changes					

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December 19, 2019

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800 955-8770 (V)

MyFWC.com

Chris Hass
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs
238A Tigert Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dr. Hass:

As Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC), I want to extend my support for the proposed name change of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) to the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geospatial Sciences. The fisheries and geospatial sciences programs within SFRC are critical to educating future conservationists and highlighting these programs will help to further preserve Florida's natural resources.

The request made by the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (UF/IFAS) will provide a modern and accurate representation of the program and allow for better service to the school's overall mission.

Florida is the fishing capital of the world, and as such it is essential that the school's programs be recognized for their efforts to protect our state's resources. The school offers degree programs in fisheries and aquatic sciences, marine sciences, and geomatics, with teaching, research and Extension faculty in Gainesville and across the state. The graduate certificate programs support working professionals, especially those in state and federal agencies. As demand for individuals with skills provided by these programs continues to grow, a name change that specifically includes fisheries and geospatial sciences would secure the University of Florida's commitment to scientific discovery, outreach, and teaching in these important areas.

FWC encourages your support and approval of this request. We believe that this change would positively influence the school's recruitment and growth in addition to the Florida resources that depend on the success of these programs.

If you have any questions, please contact me at 850-487-3796.

Sincerely,

Eric Sutton
Executive Director

UF/IFAS
Office of the Senior Vice President
Agriculture and Natural Resources

PO Box 110180
Gainesville FL 32611-0180
(352) 392-1971

December 6, 2019

Chris Hass
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs
238A Tigert Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611

The Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences has long faced a challenge in its name. More specifically, the challenge has been what's not in its name. It fails to encompass the vast portfolio of work we do in natural resources.

That makes the names of our units of paramount importance in communicating to the public, to stakeholders, to legislators, and to supporters what we do.

Changing the name of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) to more accurately reflect its mission is important to the future success of its programs and to the mission of UF/IFAS.

I fully support and urge your approval for the UF/IFAS request to change the SFRC name to School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geospatial Sciences. The programmatic areas of fisheries and geospatial sciences – programs with tremendous impact for Floridians -- have been hiding in plain sight. The campus circumstances that compelled them to join SFRC gave them an academic home, but, paradoxically, also shielded them from public view.

The school's name has not evolved to accurately reflect its broad teaching, research and Extension mission across all three disciplinary areas; this would be rectified with a name change. The school offers degree programs in fisheries and aquatic sciences, marine sciences, and geomatics, with teaching, research and Extension faculty in Gainesville and at sites across the state.

The graduate program in fisheries and aquatic sciences is among our larger programs, with 86 students this fall. Its graduate certificate programs support working professionals, especially those in state and federal agencies. The undergraduate marine science major, offered in collaboration with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has grown rapidly to more than 100 enrollees. The ABET-accredited geomatics bachelor's program places 100 percent of its students and more than 50 percent of geomatics graduates now own their own businesses, most of which are in Florida.

Demand for graduates from the programs in SFRC continues to grow, with particularly high demand for those skilled in the geospatial sciences. How can we expect would-be students to find this program when the school's current name suggests such a limited scope?

We recognize that UF/IFAS is not the only unit on campus with expertise in geospatial sciences, and that others use the term "geospatial" in course and program names. The School is by its nature multidisciplinary and welcomes the opportunity to bring together collaborators who will continue to advance discoveries and applications in this area.

The proposed name change is an opportunity to rectify the above-mentioned challenges. As we pursue top 5 status, we need to talk about what we do well. We do fisheries sciences and geospatial sciences well. As noted above, we are vital to the geospatial sciences professions in the state. In addition, Florida is, of course, the world fishing capital, so it is essential that we raise the visibility of our efforts to protect the natural resources that draw people here from all over the world.

Director Baker has conscientiously undertaken this name-change process in part in response to our stakeholders, who depend on the success of these programs to support their industries. These programs make important contributions to the economy of Florida.

While there is not unanimity on the new name, there is consensus, which Director Baker has achieved through an inclusive, deliberate process. This has already yielded the benefits accruing from a self-examination of the school's programs and mission. We can talk to our stakeholders, to the public, and to potential funders more clearly about what we do.

A name change that specifically includes fisheries and geospatial sciences signals our commitment to scientific discovery, outreach, and teaching in these important areas.

I urge you to approve this important name change for the good of the university, for IFAS, and for these specific programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jack M. Payne".

Jack M. Payne
Senior Vice President for Agriculture and Natural Resources

Office of the Provost and Senior Vice President

235 Tigert Hall
PO Box 113175
Gainesville, FL 32611-3175
352-392-2404
352-392-8735 Fax


December 27, 2019

Dr. Chris Hass
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs
Office of the Provost
PO Box 113175
CAMPUS

Dear Dr. Hass:

I support the proposal to change the name of the UF/IFAS School of Forest Resources and Conservation to *School of Forest, Fisheries and Geospatial Sciences*. The proposed name more accurately reflects the breadth of academic programs housed in the School.

Sincerely,



Joseph Glover
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

16 January 2020

Dr. Chris Hass
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs
238A Tigert Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dear Dr. Hass,

As you are aware, UF/IFAS recently requested that the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) change its name to better reflect the scope of its programs. I am in support of a name change and wish to offer my perspective on the issue. My perspective is informed by past roles as Leader of the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences program and Associate Director of the SFRC, and more recent roles as Director of the School of Natural Resources and Environment, Florida's Chief Science Officer and Chair of the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council.

The Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences program, which is arguably one of the best in the nation, lacks appropriate visibility and a sense of identity. As a consequence, the program has been and continues to be disadvantaged in many regards. Funding opportunities, for example, are often distributed to academic departments, schools or colleges that are identified specifically by key words. This is an obvious concern for faculty with research interests in fisheries, marine science, limnology, oceanography and related fields. Newer faculty can be especially affected as they have yet to establish themselves as leaders in the aforementioned disciplines. The ability to recruit top graduate students is also an issue as many potential students gravitate to more visible and better marketed programs. In my opinion, these issues and others can lead to frustration and a sense of isolation that, in turn, can affect faculty moral and may reflect poorly on the institution as a whole. I would be happy to provide you with specific examples should you be interested.

The Geomatics program, like the Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences program, is excellent. It is a nationally accredited program and the only program of its kind in the state university system. Opportunities to highlight this important fact exist, but the program itself is largely obscured within the SFRC. The program is subject to many of the same issues identified above.

In my opinion, a name that more accurately characterizes the SFRC with its full complement of degree programs is clearly warranted. I encourage you and others to give the request for a name change your fullest consideration.

Sincerest regards,



Thomas K. Frazer



UF/IFAS
College of Agricultural and Life Sciences
Office of the Dean

2001 McCarty Hall D
PO Box 110270
Gainesville, FL 32611-0270
352-392-1963 Phone
352-392-8988 Fax

Dr. Chris Hass
Associate Provost
235 Tigert Hall
University of Florida

Dear Dr. Hass:

The College of Agricultural and Life Sciences supports the request of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation to change its name to the *School of Forest, Fisheries and Geospatial Sciences*. The proposed name more accurately reflects the academic programs housed within the school.

The School is home to teaching, research and extension programs in three major disciplines: Forest Resources and Conservation, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences and Geomatics and offers degree programs in each of these areas. Through an extensive process of engagement with faculty, staff, students and stakeholders, consensus emerged around the proposed name: *School of Forest, Fisheries and Geospatial Sciences* to highlight each disciplinary area, reinforce their integration and emphasize STEM.

The CALS Dean's Office participated in the listening sessions as the new name was developed and facilitated the presentation and discussion of the proposed name to the UF/IFAS Faculty Assembly. At the Assembly's meeting on November 28, 2018, the name change was approved unanimously.

Dialogue with the leadership of the Colleges of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Design, Construction and Planning has highlighted the need to bring together expertise in geospatial sciences from across campus and we look forward to continuing discussions toward creating a Center or other mechanism to encourage collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. Elaine Turner'.

R. Elaine Turner, Dean

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American Fisheries Society

Organized 1870 to Promote the Conservation, Development and Wise Utilization of the Fisheries

425 Barlow Place, Suite 110 * Bethesda, Maryland 20814-2199

301-897-8616 * FAX 301-897-8096 * E-Mail: main@fisheries.org, www.fisheries.org

Scott Bonar, Ph.D.
President 2019-2020

Douglas J. Austen, Ph.D.
Executive Director

December 19, 2019

Dr. Chris Hass
Associate Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs
238A Tigert Hall
Gainesville, FL 32611

Dr. Hass:

We are writing to you on behalf of the American Fisheries Society to encourage your support and approval of the request of the University of Florida, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), to change the name of the School of Forest Resources and Conservation (SFRC) to the School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geospatial Sciences (SFFGS). This proposed new name will more accurately reflect the fundamental nature of the program and better represent it to students, partners and the public.

The American Fisheries Society (AFS) is the world's oldest and largest non-profit science organization dedicated to the advancement of the fisheries profession and conservation of our aquatic resources. The mission of the American Fisheries Society is:

To improve the conservation and sustainability of fishery resources and aquatic ecosystems by advancing fisheries and aquatic science and promoting the development of fisheries professionals.

AFS publishes six journals, over 200 books and hosts the nation's largest regional, national and international conferences on fisheries and aquatics issues. The Society embraces freshwater and marine systems and has members in over 50 countries. As you might surmise, the University of Florida research community and your many partners in Gainesville and statewide are a strong component of AFS membership. Fisheries science and management in Florida is an immensely important component of society, the economy and the history of the state.

In working with your faculty and partners, it has been made abundantly clear that the current program name is simply antiquated and inaccurately reflects that true nature of the program. The graduate program in fisheries is truly one of the nation's foremost academic programs with nearly 90 graduate students working on a diverse and inspiring array of topics. Clearly, fisheries issues in Florida

resulting from human population growth, climate change, landscape modifications and many other factors will continue to expand. The need for a graduate program that addresses these challenges is clear. Importantly, for recognition and awareness of such a program, the name should reflect the areas of emphasis and importance. While the simple nature of a name does not define a program, it can be a detriment if inaccurate and it clearly can be an asset when it effectively characterizes the entity. We strongly agree that the recommendation to adopt the new name, School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geospatial Sciences, is a move in a very positive direction.

If you have any questions regarding this, please feel free to contact Executive Director Austen at dausten@fisheries.org or at 717-609-2998.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Scott Bonar', written in a cursive style.

Scott Bonar, Ph.D.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Douglas J. Austen', written in a cursive style.

Douglas J. Austen, Ph.D.

Proposed name change

To: *School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geospatial Sciences*
From: *School of Forest Resources and Conservation*

Description of the Proposed Change

The current name of the unit is *School of Forest Resources and Conservation* (SFRC). The proposed new name for the unit is *School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geospatial Sciences* (SFFGS). This change is designed to better reflect the diversity of programs and majors within the School and aid in communicating the breadth, depth, and integration of these programs to external and internal audiences.

Rationale for the Change

This unit is within the Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences (IFAS), and composed of 69 faculty covering three programmatic areas:

- Forestry and Natural Resources ... including undergraduate majors in *Forest Resources and Conservation* (accredited by the Society of American Foresters) and *Natural Resource Conservation*, and a graduate major in *Forest Resources and Conservation* with three degrees (Master of Science, Master of Forest Resources and Conservation, and Doctor of Philosophy)
- Fisheries, Aquaculture, and Aquatic Sciences ... including an undergraduate major in *Interdisciplinary Studies-Marine Sciences* (currently in the final stages of being converted to a stand-alone major in *Marine Sciences* jointly administered by the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences), and a graduate major in *Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences* with three graduate degrees (Master of Science, Master of Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, and Doctor of Philosophy)
- Geospatial Sciences/Surveying and Mapping ... including an undergraduate major in *Geomatics* (accredited by ABET, the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology). A graduate concentration in Geomatics is available with the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy, in *Forest Resources and Conservation*.

The proposed name was developed through a formal process led by an external consultant, involving a 20-person committee of faculty, staff, and stakeholders representing all three programmatic areas. This committee engaged with over 200 additional individuals, including:

- stakeholders at the regional, national, and international level, representing all three program areas, including professional organizations, employers of graduates, alumni, and funding agencies
- faculty and staff within the School, representing all three programmatic areas
- undergraduate and graduate students within all three programmatic areas
- administrators from other units within IFAS, and the larger University community
- administrators at peer institutions throughout the nation

The results were evaluated and the proposed name of *School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geospatial Sciences* was chosen based on the following rationale:

- the name better represents the range of disciplines/topics addressed by the School, including the stakeholders served
- the name enhances the ability of both internal and external stakeholders (especially prospective students, and the public seeking Extension information) to identify the School as the appropriate source of information on these topics

Budgetary Implications

There are no recurring budgetary implications for this proposal.

One-time budgetary implications would include updating signage, outreach materials, and related efforts to announce the new name to stakeholders, estimated at \$80,000.

Impact of Proposed Change on Faculty, Staff, and Students

The proposed change is in name only – there are no anticipated impacts to students, faculty, and staff beyond the benefits that will accrue to those who are under-represented in the current name.

Tally of Faculty Vote

In June 2018 the proposed name was voted upon by the 48 tenure-track faculty in the unit, as outlined in SFRC's shared governance document. The resulting vote was 44 in favor and 4 against.

Description of Input from Governing Bodies

The unit has external advisory committees for each of its three programmatic areas (Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Forestry and Natural Resources, Geomatics). These three committees independently reviewed and approved the proposed name on 26 April 2018.

The School also has an external advisory board, which reviewed and approved the proposed name on 27 April 2018.

The proposed name was reviewed and approved unanimously by the IFAS Faculty Assembly on 28 November 2018.

Since being approved by the IFAS Faculty Assembly, the proposed name has been discussed with administrative leadership in other colleges on campus, as well as the Office of the Provost. While there has been concern expressed by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and the College of Design, Construction, and Planning, subsequent discussions have been productive, and we believe these concerns have been addressed. At the recommendation of the Provost, we are moving forward to explore a collaborative effort among these colleges, and other units on campus which have

geospatial science expertise, to form a center, or similar, to combine and highlight UF's exemplary geospatial analysis capacity.

Statements of Support

Please find attached letters of support from the following administrative leadership:

Dr. Elaine Turner, Dean of the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences

Dr. Jack Payne, Senior Vice-President of IFAS

Dr. Joseph Glover, Provost of the University of Florida

Dr. Michael Allen, Director Nature Coast Biological Station