

PURDUE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

BOARD APPROVED  
December 3, 2021

Janice Indrutz  
Corporate Secretary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRA-AGENCY ADVISORY AND DELIBERATIVE MATERIAL

MEMORANDUM

*Executive Summary of Upcoming Board Review or Action Item*

**DATE:** September 20, 2021  
**TO:** Jenna L. Rickus, Professor and Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning  
**FROM:** Terri Swim, Primary Contact, (260) 481-6442; swimt@pfw.edu  
**CC:**  
**SUBJECT:** PFW renaming three departments

**Purpose:**

- This item is recommended for discussion by the Board in executive session.
- This item is recommended for discussion by the Academic Affairs Committee at its meeting.
- This item will require a formal vote by the Academic Affairs Committee at its meeting.
- This item will require a formal vote by the Board in the Stated Meeting.
- This item will be presented in a formal resolution for action at the Stated Meeting.

**Attachments:**

List any attachments to the memo as Exhibits or Appendices or note, "No Attachments"

No attachments

**Executive Summary (1-page) included:** [*Provides a high level narrative and should provide some interpretative commentary surrounding any data or other graphical information being provided in any attachments.*]

**Concluding thought:** The purpose of the Executive Summary is to ensure the trustees know an item will be discussed at the meetings, to give them a general understanding, and to provide contact information if they have early questions. Please keep it to one page, and limit attachments to only those needed to provide a useful introductory overview.





November 9, 2021

Jay Akridge, Ph.D.  
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

Prof. Jenna L. Rickus, Ph.D.  
Professor and Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning

**Re: Purdue Fort Wayne Proposal to Rename the Departments of Biology, Chemistry, and General Studies**

Dear Provost Akridge and Vice Provost Rickus,

On behalf of the Academic Organization Committee (AOC), I am pleased to provide our review of the proposal from Terri Swim, the Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Programs of Purdue University Fort Wayne (PFW) to change the names of three departments. The proposal requests the following three name changes: 1) Biology to Biological Sciences; 2) Chemistry to Chemistry and Biochemistry; and 3) General Studies to Integrated Studies. A one-page Executive Summary describing the reasoning for the proposed changes was provided to the committee.

The first two proposed name changes involve two departments in the College of Science, which was created this past February. The memo indicated that the faculty in these two departments voted to change the names after reviewing the departments' missions and visions. The committee agrees that the new proposed names better represent the range and scope of faculty activities in these departments, and that the name changes would have no adverse effect on faculty or students.

The third proposed name change involves the Department of General Studies, which is in the Unit of Affiliated Studies. While the name change seems to make sense, it was not clear to the committee if this proposal has the support of associated faculty and/or stakeholders. To address this concern, the AOC chair corresponded with the Director of General Studies, La Tishia Horrell. Ms. Horrell indicated that there are no faculty in the department, but there is an advisory board consisting of faculty members from every college/area of the university. The proposed name change was discussed during at least one board meeting and no one expressed any concerns, but no formal vote was taken. The committee requested that Ms. Horrell conduct a vote, and it was reported that all 9 members of the board voted in favor of the name change. In addition, Ms. Horrell indicated that the name change was also voted on and approved by the PFW Senate. The content of this conversation was reported to the AOC by the chair and all committee members then unanimously agreed to recommend approval of the proposed name changes for all three departments.

Therefore, after doing our due diligence, the Academic Organization Committee supports the proposal and recommends that it be accepted. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to contact the AOC chair.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S Bane". The letters are cursive and fluid.

Sally Bane, Ph.D.  
Chair, Academic Organization Committee

cc. Members of the Academic Organization Committee

Nour Abdelfattah  
Nancy Edwards  
Levon Esters  
Libby Richards