#### PURDUE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

BOARD APPROVED December 3, 2021

Janice Indrutz
Corporate Secretary

#### 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**:

<b>v</b>	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.]

<u>Concluding thought</u>: 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 <u>one page</u>, and limit attachments to only those needed to provide a useful introductory overview.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Degree: N/A

Department Name Changes from: Biology to Biological Sciences (College of Science)

Chemistry to Chemistry and Biochemistry (College of Science)

General Studies to Integrated Studies (Unit of Affiliated Studies)

The proposed modifications to the academic organization of Purdue University Fort Wayne is a last step in the evolution of change initiated by the transition from IPFW to PFW. Creating the College of Science and the College of Liberal Arts in February of this year resulted in departments reviewing their mission and vision. As a result of this review, faculty voted to change the name of three departments.

Biology faculty would like to rename their department Biological Sciences. This name is more inclusive of both basic and applied science of biology, and it better represents opportunities for cross-disciplinary interactions within and outside the newly established College of Science at Purdue Fort Wayne. The name also aligns with the Departments of Biological Science at Purdue West Lafayette and Purdue Northwest.

Chemistry faculty would like to rename their department Chemistry and Biochemistry. Over the past five years, department programs have been reconfigured and streamlined from containing several previous options to major programs in Chemistry (B.S. and B.S.C. degrees) and a new B.S. in Biochemistry. Now beginning in its fourth year, the biochemistry program has shown steady growth, and the proposed new department name better reflects student enrollment patterns in the chemistry and biochemistry majors. As such, the new name is more inclusive for our students, provides increased recognition and marketing opportunity for the emerging biochemistry program, and provides a clear home for all department programs.

The Director of General Studies proposes that the department be renamed Integrated Studies. This title provides a better understanding of the two degrees the department oversees. The Bachelor of Applied Science degree has a number of concentrations integrating courses from across areas of the university. The Bachelor of General Studies likewise incorporates a number of disciplines into one degree. Changing the name allows students to have a better understanding of the purpose and goals of both degrees. With the name General Studies many students assume this is just general education and not a set degree path with two degree options. Integrated Studies is also more encompassing of the degrees' pathways than General Studies.

Recommended Approval:

Approved:

Jay I. Akridge Brovest and Evecut Date

11/11/21

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs and Diversity

President

Data



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,

Sally Bane, Ph.D.

Chair, Academic Organization Committee

cc. Members of the Academic Organization Committee

Nour Abdelfattah

Nancy Edwards

Levon Esters

Libby Richards