

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST FOR A NAME CHANGE AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE TO COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND LIFE SCIENCES**

**Action Requested:** Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to change the name of the College of Agriculture to the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

**Executive Summary:** The proposed name more accurately describes the scope and breadth of the educational, extension, and research programs offered by the College, including programs in biology, animal science, food science, genetics, environmental science, and food safety) and communicates its future vision. The proposed name is consistent with the names adopted by ISU's peer institutions; all but one of ISU's peer institutions reflect a broader dimension in the names of their colleges of agriculture. The proposed name will not have any negative effect on students. This request has been reviewed by the Board Office and the Council of Provosts and is recommended for approval. This request addresses the College's 2005-10 strategic plan priorities in research, extension, and education and the Board's Strategic Plan objective (1.1) to "offer high-quality programs through ongoing program improvement for undergraduate, graduate, professional, and non-degree students and special school students."

**Background:**

- ◇ **History.** The proposed name change has been under discussion for more than three years. In 2004, the Dean's Executive Council initiated a discussion with College leaders about a name change which would market the College more effectively for student recruitment and respond to industry concerns over anticipated personnel shortages in the agriculture and life sciences fields. In 2006, the Dean's Advisory Council voted unanimously in support of the name change.
- ◇ **Definition of life sciences.** "Life sciences" is defined as a branch of science, such as biology, medicine, anthropology or sociology, which deals with living organisms and life processes.<sup>1</sup> Eleven of the College's 15 departments fit as branches of science dealing with living organisms and their life processes and relationships to each other and their environment.
- ◇ **Importance of the word "agriculture."** The proposed name change will not lessen the significance or prominence of the word "agriculture," which is a source of pride and tradition for the College's alumni and stakeholders. The word "agriculture" reflects 150 years of research, education, and extension that continue to enhance food, feed, fiber, fuel, and consumer products and 150 years of graduates whose leadership in a variety of areas has made a significant difference for Iowa and the world.

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Merriam-Webster Dictionary.

- ◇ Name change benefits. The proposed name change is expected to result in the following benefits to the College and the University:
  - 📖 Enhance recruitment and retention of students by conveying to prospective students the breadth of programs, services, and expertise available in the College.
  - 📖 Enhance recruitment of new faculty members by reflecting the importance of life science in the College's fundamental and applied research.
  - 📖 Help the College define the role of fundamental sciences in the future of agriculture by increasing the prominence of life sciences in the College's strategic view.
  - 📖 Represent more accurately the nature of educational, research, and extension programs by communicating the College's vision to be at the forefront of scientific frontiers of agriculture and life sciences, including genomics, biorenewables, human health and wellness, environmental stewardship, food safety and security, and the profitability and competitiveness of agricultural producers and businesses.
  - 📖 Reflect more appropriately the collaborative nature of many College programs which are strongly connected to life sciences, including sustainable agriculture, interdepartmental genetics, toxicology, and microbiology. The College has a unique administrative structure for jointly administered departments. Six departments are jointly administered with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; one is jointly administered with the College of Engineering; and another with the College of Human Sciences.
  - 📖 Place a stronger emphasis on innovation in agriculture by better defining the role and importance of fundamental sciences in the future of food, fuel, and fiber and other agricultural infrastructures of Iowa and the nation.
  - 📖 Help the College recognize its diverse alumni more appropriately by engaging alumni who may view "agriculture" narrowly.

Details about the proposed name change are available in the Board Office.