Recommendation of the Department of Occupational Therapy and the College of Health Sciences to Change the Department’s Name to Department of Occupational Science and Technology

Department of Occupational Therapy Name Change

On August 24, 2009, the College of Health Sciences faculty unanimously approved the recommendation from the Department of Occupational Therapy to change its departmental name to the “Department of Occupation Science and Technology.”

Rationale:

Rationale for this change: Since its establishment as a department in 1999, the Department of Occupational Therapy has strengthened and expanded its academic programs. The department currently offers a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Certificate in Therapeutic Recreation, Certificate in Assistive Technology and Accessible Design, and Certificate in Ergonomics, as well as a doctoral degree in Health Sciences. It is home to the well-funded research center known as R2D2 (Rehabilitation Research Design and Disability Center) and the Center for Ergonomics. As these programs have developed, the interdisciplinary nature of the faculty and staff areas of expertise have expanded from occupational therapy and therapeutic recreation to include those with expertise in rehabilitation engineering, assistive technology, ergonomics, occupational science, and rehabilitation outcomes measurement. The proposed department name highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the faculty today and into the future. It highlights the distinct strengths offered by the academic programs and their grounding in the use of technology to facilitate engagement in everyday life.

The next step in the approval process is to send this request to the Faculty Senate. I ask that you consider this request and place this as an agenda item for the next Faculty Senate meeting.
To: University Committee

From: Chukuka Enwereka, Dean

Date: September 17, 2009

Re: Department of Occupational Therapy name change

I would like to request a name change to the Department of Occupational Therapy. On August 24, 2009, the College of Health Sciences faculty unanimously approved the recommendation from the Department of Occupational Therapy to change its departmental name to the "Department of Occupational Science and Technology".

Rationale for this change: Since its establishment as a department in 1999, the Department of Occupational Therapy has strengthened and expanded its academic programs. The department currently offers a Bachelor of Science in Occupational Studies, Master of Science in Occupational Therapy, Certificate in Therapeutic Recreation, Certificate in Assistive Technology and Accessible Design, and Certificate in Ergonomics, as well as a doctoral degree in Health Sciences. It is home to the well-funded research center known as R2D2 (Rehabilitation Research Design and Disability Center) and the Center for Ergonomics. As these programs have developed, the interdisciplinary nature of the faculty and staff areas of expertise have expanded from occupational therapy and therapeutic recreation to include those with expertise in rehabilitation engineering, assistive technology, ergonomics, occupational science, and rehabilitation outcomes measurement. The proposed department name highlights the interdisciplinary nature of the faculty today and into the future. It highlights the distinct strengths offered by the academic programs and their grounding in the use of technology to facilitate engagement in everyday life.

The next step in the approval process is to send this request to the Faculty Senate. I ask that you consider this request and place this as an agenda item for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to obtaining approval for this department name change.

Cc: Phyllis King, Associate Dean
    Ginny Stoffel, Chair, Department of Occupational Therapy

Where science enriches lives