

November 3, 2008

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is requesting approval for the department name change described below. This name change has resulted from the merger of two departments.

On July 1, 2008 in response to recommendations from the Interim Dean and the President, the Board of Trustees directed a departmental merger and reorganization of several departments in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences as a result of statewide budget cutbacks.

The Departments of Botany and Zoology were merged into one department with the proposed name of the **Department of Biology**.

NAME: The proposed name for the new unit is the **Department of Biology**.

VOTE: On September 11, 2008 the faculty from the two former departments of Botany and Zoology voted on three options: Biology, Botany and Zoology, and Integrative Biology. The vote was Biology (29); Botany and Zoology (0); Integrative Biology (4). In this manner Biology was approved as a name for the new department.

RATIONALE: The name “Department of Biology” was chosen by an overwhelming faculty vote after careful consideration of other prospective names, the department’s mission, and the names of similar departments at our peer institutions.

The Department of Biology will study life at all levels from molecules to the biosphere with the goal of understanding the evolution, structure, maintenance and dynamics of biological systems. Its teaching and research provide the integrative and conceptual foundations of the biological sciences.

The name “Biology” is concise, avoids unneeded jargon, and will be easily understood by students and other non-experts.