

College of Design, Construction and Planning
Office of the Dean

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August 25, 2009

TO: Jack Mecholsky, Chair, UF Faculty Senate
FROM: Christopher Silver, Dean
RE: College of Design, Construction and Planning New School

The College of Design, Construction and Planning is requesting approval of the name for a new school that resulted from a merger of two departments associated with budget reductions enacted on July 1, 2008. In response to a recommendation from the President, the Board of Trustees directed the College of DCP to merge two departments, Landscape Architecture and Urban and Regional Planning. A Task Force was established in Fall 2008 to determine the exact nature of the merger. The report of the Task Force is enclosed, along with a time line of the actions taken on the merger over the past year.

Attached is an overview of the new school proposal and additional information you may require to consider this request. In discussions with the Provost's office, we clarified the following points, which might be of interest with your deliberations: (a) For at least the next two years, the departments will remain independent and continue to function with their current chairs, and with current processes of promotion and tenure, sabbatical, and SPP in place. The reason for this is that accreditation of the two programs is handled by two distinct accrediting bodies. The flexibility that these two accrediting bodies will allow for merging processes will be determined over the next two years. (b) Degrees will not be altered, apart from perhaps covering some common curriculum needs through a single course rather than separate courses. (c) Opportunities for students to draw from both curricula are being studied as an enhancement emanating from the closer cooperation in the new School.

It is important that the Faculty Senate consider the new unit name at its earliest convenience. Having an official name allows university and college offices to establish new budget accounts, accurate student catalogs and related information, as well as to address various faculty affairs such as tenure and promotion processes. Further, DCP already implemented staff realignments that will facilitate the effective operation of the two units as a collaborative enterprise.

I hope this transmission provides the information you need to act on our request. Please contact me should you require anything additional. We look forward to meeting with the Senate Steering Committee at your September 3rd meeting to formally present this action on behalf of DCP.

cc: Dr. Angel Kowlek-Folland