

February 24, 2011

DEAN NEAL K. VAN ALFEN

College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences

Re: Proposal to Consolidate the Departments of Human and Community Development and Environmental Design into the Department of Human & Community Development and Design

The proposal was forwarded to all of the standing committees of the Davis Division including the college/school Faculty Executive Committees. Responses were received from: Committee on Planning and Budget, Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, and the College of Letters and Science Faculty Executive Committee.

The Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) expressed appreciation for your response to its December 1, 2010, request for additional information. Receipt of the response dated January 12, 2011, clarified an incorrectly reported faculty vote in the original proposal as well as clarified the college position. In addition, based on your January 12th response, CPB wishes to emphasize that a Dean's appointment of a "faculty-based" committee does not constitute Academic Senate consultation, even if there is broad representation.

Finally, CPB respectfully disagrees with your position. All attempts should be made to ensure that the faculty continues to have a successful career at UC Davis. Faculty affected by closures and consolidations should be consulted as to what academic unit they feel fits their research and teaching needs. These wishes should be honored, even if they require the faculty to move to another college. Steps should be taken so that the new home department is not penalized when agreeing to take in affected faculty. If possible, this should be done with the faculty affected by this consolidation.

The Davis Division is deeply concerned that five of the ten comments recorded on the ballot were extremely negative, even if the faculty members who wrote them voted in favor of the consolidation. Comments such as "shotgun marriage"; the merger having no "teaching, research or disciplinary basis"; the merger not being "a comfortable fit"; and the merger's being a condition by the CA&ES Dean to keep the undergraduate and graduate programs intact; reflects a sense of hopelessness among the faculty which is incompatible with the proactive action described in your January 12, 2011, response to CPB.

Strong objections to the proposed new department name were received. The existing Design Program in the College of Letters and Science offers a very popular undergraduate major in Design, and the real potential exists for cross college confusion resulting from the proposed name. We strongly object to the use of the word "Design" at the end of the new department name.

In addition, Graduate Council polled the chairs of the four graduate groups with the two departments. There is the hope the consolidation will not lead to modifications of the existing programs: M.S. or Ph.D. Of greater concern is the possibility that the resulting consolidation

could somehow lead to a title that could obscure the identity of the programs, or, at least, make them less easily identifiable to prospective students.

The Department of Psychology objects to the statement that the new department's academic domain would be "human ecology" (see A.1. "Objectives"). Human ecology falls under the area of social psychology. Additionally, it is widely considered a subfield within the discipline of Anthropology.

The Division is providing conditional approval of the proposal to consolidate the departments of Human and Community Development and Environmental Design based on developing a department name that is mutually agreeable to the College of Letters and Science.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. G. Powell". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "P" and "W".

Robert Powell, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Chair & Professor: Chemical Engineering and
Materials Science
Professor: Food Science & Technology

c: Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor Hexter
Vice Provost-Undergraduate Studies Turner
CA&ES Faculty Executive Committee Chair Williams
CL&S Faculty Executive Committee Chair Boeshaar