



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Departmental Merger Proposal: Textiles/Clothing and Biological/Agricultural Engineering

December 9, 2011

Proposal submitted jointly by the College of Agricultural & Environmental Sciences and College of Engineering seeking approval to merge the Department of Textiles and Clothing with the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering.

Academic Freedom & Responsibility

November 5, 2011 1:11 PM

UCD CAFR established review procedures for the 2011-2012 academic year on October 9, 2011. After CAFR review, this proposed Departmental Merger was found to not raise any concerns related to academic freedom.

Administrative Partners (DANN TRASK)

December 8, 2011 5:26 PM

No response at this time.

CAP Oversight Committee

November 21, 2011 10:36 AM

Departmental Merger: Textiles/Clothing and Biological/Agricultural Engineering

The Committee on Academic Personnel (CAP) has reviewed and discussed the proposed departmental merger of Textiles/Clothing with Biological/Agricultural Engineering. It appears this merger was recommended by the CAES Executive Committee on a mixed vote of 6-2. There are several unusual issues that arise from this proposed merger, some related to the continued delivery of curriculum for the Textiles major; however, CAP focused its discussion on faculty personnel issues.

CAP understands that one faculty member from Textiles/Clothing will not have a departmental home; one will be transferring to L&S, and the remainder will transfer to Biological/Agricultural Engineering in the merger. In all three cases, CAP is concerned about the fairness of future peer evaluations associated with merits and promotions, in light of the shift from a highly interdisciplinary department centered around textiles and clothing, to disparate academic atmospheres with other foci. CAP recommends that the dossiers of these faculty members contain information documenting this shift, and that differences in the review associated with the new peer groups (of different academic cultures) must be carefully considered in future merit and promotion actions for these faculty.

CAP is especially concerned that the faculty member who apparently will not have a home department will not benefit from the same, consistent peer evaluation procedures as previously in her/his employment history at UC Davis. It is unclear just what the peer evaluation procedures will be for this faculty member. The proposed merger document refers to the "pending retirement" of this faculty member several times, but also says that "...this faculty member is expected to retire in about one year." These two references are somewhat contradictory, as it would be CAP's interpretation of a "pending retirement" as one that has been officially requested with formal written documentation. It is CAP's understanding that unofficial faculty retirement plans are to be considered confidential and personal, as well as tentative, and therefore cannot be officially assumed in consideration of the proposed merger.

CAP would like clarification on each of these issues.

Elections, Rules & Jurisdiction

November 17, 2011 4:53 PM

No response at this time.

Graduate Council

December 13, 2011 1:42 PM

This merger affects not only the graduate programs in Textiles and Biological Systems Engineering, but also the graduate program in Chemical Engineering and Material Science. Council consulted with the faculty in all of these programs, and would like to make the following recommendations based on those conversations:

1. **Protect/Reallocate CHMS space** The space used by CHMS in Everson may have become vulnerable with this merger. Labs and offices in the building appear to be "reallocated" to campus without proper faculty consultation and the faculty state that no solid plan has emerged for compensating CHMS for the lost space. This should be immediately addressed.
2. **Safety and quality of the facilities** require immediate remediation by the Deans' Office:
 - a. The labs and offices for the Textiles program are still in Everson. The building is old and labs are not equipped to meet the current safety standards.
 - b. Similarly, there are immediate safety issues in the research labs for the BSE program that should be addressed.
3. **TA support** for TXC courses should continue on par with the UG major phase out, as indicated in the proposal.
4. **The courses currently cross-listed with CEMS** should remain as such in the future, as they are based on disciplinary and academic considerations that have been in place for some time.

The graduate programs involved, as well as Council, are supportive of the interdisciplinary collaborations that will continue to be supported through this merger. BSE stated that one Textiles faculty has had a joint appointment in the department for some time, and that the other two incoming faculty will join the BSE department-based graduate program, which will enhance the breadth of research available to BSE students. The programs have been administratively clustered since 2010 so neither anticipates any negative impact on the administration of the programs.

The merger will bring three fiber and polymer scientists to BAE and possibly can strengthen the research and graduate educations in bio-based materials, fibers and polymers. In fact, members of BAE have expertise in areas complementary to the current textile faculty and may be interested in joining Textile Graduate Group. Having said all of this, however, Council would like to point out that expertise of the faculty in polymer science have even more direct relevance to Material Science, and Council would like to be assured that a merger directly with CEMS has also been considered.

Planning & Budget

November 17, 2011 4:52 PM

CPB has reviewed the proposal to merge the Department of Textiles and Clothing with the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering and agrees with the proposal.

Research

November 17, 2011 4:53 PM

No response at this time.

Undergraduate Council

December 12, 2011 1:41 PM

Response continued on next page.

Undergraduate Council (UGC) has reviewed the proposal to merge the Division of Textiles and Clothing and the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. UGC supports the proposal, while noting two concerns.

- Closing the TXC major appears to be embedded in the proposal. UGC views a closure of the TXC major as a separate issue and UGC's support for the merger proposal in no way is support for the closure of the TXC major.
- UGC has significant concern about space allocations, upgrading laboratory space and the timeline for renovations. The plan for location of offices is unclear, as the proposal states that offices will be consolidated in Bainer, however the TXC faculty offices will be in Everson. Also, a proposed renovation of the labs in Everson is planned to meet safety guidelines for the TXC group, but the long term goal is to move the laboratories of both groups to the old Food Science & Technology building where renovation and upgrading will take place to meet research and teaching needs of the consolidated department. What is the timeline for the renovation of the laboratories in Everson vs. the renovation of the laboratories in the Food Science & Technology building? Has financial duplication been addressed for renovating labs in both buildings?