

F92-5 Change of Title "Department" to "School"; Director

Legislative History:

At its meeting of December 7, 1992, the Academic Senate approved the following policy Amendment presented by Theodore Norton for the Organization and Government Committee.

Amends (replaces) S92-9.

ACTION BY THE UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT:

"Approved as University Policy" signed J. Handel Evans, December 11, 1992.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

Resolved, An existing academic department may be designated a "School" if it meets the criteria and completes the procedures set forth in this policy.

1. Criteria*

- a. Similar academic units of comparable size and academic quality in comprehensive universities are frequently designated "Schools."
- b. The applicant department must offer a terminal degree in a professionally oriented program.

2. Nomenclature

- a. The title for the individual who administers a "School" shall be "Director." The Director's position is equivalent to a department chair and shall be reimbursed at the same level as department chairs.
- b. The use of the title "Director" as administrative officer of a school does not exclude its use for other administrative positions in the University.

3. Procedures: All requests for change of designation from "Department" to "School":

- a. Must be fully supported by appropriate explanation and documentation, including evidence that academic units at comparable institutions are so designated.
- b. Must be approved by a majority vote of the faculty having voting rights in the department or academic unit as specified by UP S90-1 (now superseded by S98-2).
- c. Must be approved at each level by University committees and administrators in the following sequence:

- 1) College policy or Executive Committee

- 2) College dean (Where the degree recognized as professional qualification is a graduate degree and the department or equivalent is not part of any College, the application shall require instead approval by the Graduate Studies Committee and by the academic officer having decanal authority over the unit.)

- 3) Academic Senate Organization and Government Committee

- 4) Academic Vice President (now Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs)

- 5) President

4. Financial Impact

- a. No new administrative positions (MPP) may be created by the designation of "Schools."
- b. No additional departments may be created within a College as a result of the name change of a department to "School."

5. Departments designated as "Schools" under this policy remain departments within their Colleges for all purposes of other University policies.

*Interpretation of the criteria by the Organization and Government Committee. In response to a request for an interpretation of the first paragraph, the committee has reviewed its records and has concluded that the second criterion is an abbreviated version of earlier language which was substantially as follows: "The applicant department is career or professionally oriented and its degree programs include a degree usually recognized as the professional qualification for practitioners in the field." The committee agreed that the final wording was not intended as a change, but was simply a shorter way of saying the same thing. In identifying a career or professionally oriented department, the committee suggests that it would

be persuasive to show that a majority of its graduates actually do practice in the field of their degree. And an obvious example of a "terminal degree" is one which serves as a basis for a state license to practice. The committee also believes that full weight should be given to the first criterion: "Similar academic units of comparable size and quality in comprehensive universities are frequently designated "Schools", and to paragraph 3(a) regarding documentation.