



OSWEGO
STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK

**OFFICE OF THE DEAN
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS & SCIENCES**

To: Lorrie Clemo, Provost

From: Rick Back, Interim Dean, CLAS

Rick Back

*Approved
RAC
1/2/13*

Date: January 18, 2013

Re: Earth Sciences Department Name Change

The Department of Earth Sciences has requested to change its name to the "Department of Atmospheric and Geological Sciences." This combination best captures what the faculty in the department do, both in teaching and research, and also reflects the move of Astronomy program to the Department of Physics. The chair of Earth Sciences consulted with both Chemistry and Biological Sciences, who previously objected to the change to "Earth and Environmental Sciences". There have been no such objections to the newly proposed change. I would be in support as well. Thank you for your consideration.

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Date: October 17, 2013

TO: Dr. Richard Back, Interim Dean CLAS

FROM: Dave Valentino, Chair, Department of Earth Sciences

SUBJECT: Department name change proposal

At a recent meeting, the faculty of the Earth Science Department voted to change the department name to "Department of Atmospheric and Geological Sciences".

The current name of our department, Earth Sciences, does not adequately reflect the activities in the department. The origin of this name is from when Oswego was primarily a teacher training college. Our disciplines were lumped in high-school classes, hence the name, Earth Sciences. Additionally, current students looking for degrees in geology or meteorology are often confused by the department name. Therefore, since the Department of Earth Sciences administers B.S. degree programs in Geological and Atmospheric Sciences, by faculty with Ph.D.'s in Geological and Atmospheric Sciences, the proposed name change reflects accurately what we teach and practice, Atmospheric and Geological Sciences (alphabetical order).

In an earlier attempt to modernize the department name, our proposal was rejected due to objections from biology and chemistry because of the inclusion of "environmental" in the proposed name change. I have consulted with the biology and chemistry chairs to find out if they have any problems with this new proposal. I will forward their replies when they are received.