


MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10 2016

TO: Kevin Ayotte, Chair
Academic Senate

FROM: Jody Hironaka-Juteau, Dean
College of Health and Human Services 

SUBJECT: Department Name Change Request

Per the attached memo, the Department of Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies is requesting approval to change their name to the Department of Communicative Sciences and Deaf Studies.

After careful review and consideration of the department's justification, I approve this request and per APM 113, now forward it to you for your review and approval at the Academic Senate. Please let me know if you require any additional information.

Attachment

C: Steven Skelton
Lynnette Zelezny
Rudy Sanchez

MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Lynnette Zelezny, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
From: Steven L. Skelton, Ph.D., Interim Chair, CDDS *SLZ*
Date: Monday, August 22, 2016
Re: Department Name

The Faculty of the Department of Communicative Disorders, meeting on Thursday, August 18, 2016, unanimously approved to change the department name to the *Department of Communicative Sciences and Deaf Studies*. We make this request in accordance with APM 113.

Justification

Current Department Name. The current name of the department was approved in 1999-2000 in response to the concern "Communicative Sciences and Disorders" implied Deaf Studies was a Communicative Disorder. To address this concern, "Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies" was adopted. This name had two independent phrases to indicate two major disciplines of study (i.e., Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology, and Deaf Education, Deaf Studies and Interpreting) within one department.

Rationale for Name Change. At the beginning of last academic year, Dr. Janice Smith-Warshaw proposed to have a new department name because the term, "Disorders," is considered as politically incorrect in the Deaf and Hard of Hearing community. In addition, Dr. Smith-Warshaw received a message from a school superintendent from California School for the Deaf, Fremont that the phrase "communicative disorders" was not acceptable to them. He indicated that if we retained it, then they would no longer "accept our student teaching placement program." The other California School for the Deaf in Riverside will soon take the same position. Therefore, to maintain the positive relationship (e.g., to place student teachers at these schools) with California Schools for the Deaf, we would need to remove "disorders" from our department name and replace it with something that designates SLP and audiology, but does not raise the same problems. A similar issue has faced our Deaf Studies faculty in conferences and off-campus meetings with Deaf people and professionals. The result has been that some of our faculty members actively hide the name of the department to avoid controversy. As we seek different ways to increase enrollment in our graduate Deaf Education program, having a department name that is not off-putting to potential students is crucial.

Communicative Disorders and Deaf Studies

California State University, Fresno
5310 N. Campus Drive M/S PH80 • Fresno, California 93740

P 559.228.2423 F 559.228.5187 www.FresnoState.edu/cdds

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY