

Monday, February 04, 2002

Professor Norman Abeles, Chairperson  
Executive Committee of Academic Council

Dear Norm,

**re: ECAC referral of proposed name change for the Telecommunications Department**

At the UCAP meeting of 24 January 2002, the ECAC referred issue of the proposed name change of the Telecommunications Department to (new name) *Telecommunications, Information, and Media*. Present at the UCAP meeting and speaking in favor of the proposed change were Associate Dean Thomas Baldwin (Communication Arts & Sciences), and Professor & Chairperson Mark Levy (Department of Telecommunication). Present at the meeting and raising questions about the proposed name change was Professor & Chairperson Wayne Dyksen (Computer Science & Engineering).

**After due deliberation, UCAP members voted to not recommend the proposed name change.** In addition to the action to not recommend the proposed name change, a second part of the unanimously passed motion was aimed at making the following recommendations, all of which is carried through would smooth the way for action on this issue at a later time. The recommendations were as follows – quoting from the language of the UCAP motion.

- Further consultation concerning the proposed name change should take place with a range of undergraduate students (at all class levels) within the department and from other programs such as Computer Science and Business. Student groups such as ASMSU might also be consulted.
- Consultation should also take place with other colleges and departments sharing similar interests (Computer Science, Journalism, Business).
- The term “Information” may be insufficient in the effort to clarify the department’s offerings to undergraduates.
- Study should be undertaken concerning the possible impact of the proposed name change on future course offerings within the department.

Finally, it is important to understand the UCAP recommendation on this issue in a “big picture” view. UCAP action on this issue was framed around the general tenant that proposed actions that affect the undergraduate instructional program (and are hence in the purview of UCAP) should be discussed within all parts of the University community that might be affected by proposed changes. One often-important role of UCAP is to ensure that affected units or groups in the University are informed of such *proposed* changes because it is such openness that forms the collegial bedrock on which a university should stand.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Sticklen". The signature is stylized, with the first letters of the first and last names being larger and more prominent.

Jon Sticklen, 2001-2001 Chairperson  
University Committee on Academic Policy  
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