

Faculty Senate Curriculum and Planning Committee Report February 2025

Introduction

The Faculty Senate Curriculum and Planning Committee convened on February 13, 2025, to review Proposition 10 24/25 *Proposal for the name change from the "Department of Civil Engineering" to the "Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering."* The following report provides an overview of the meeting's discussions, decisions, and next steps.

Civil Engineering Name Change Proposal

A proposal was presented to change the Department of Civil Engineering's name to the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering. The committee determined that the proposal was well-structured and aligned with similar changes at peer institutions. While there was discussion regarding the broad scope of the term 'environmental,' it was ultimately not considered a significant concern. The committee expressed general support for the proposal, recognizing its potential to enhance interdisciplinary collaboration and academic visibility.

Impact of Name Change on DEI Efforts

Concerns were raised regarding the potential implications of the proposed name change on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts, as well as on the safety of students, faculty, and staff. While no major barriers were identified, some committee members noted that the term 'environmental' might elicit political scrutiny under the current administration. These concerns were acknowledged, but the committee ultimately supported the name change based on its academic and institutional benefits.

Bill Passage

During the meeting, the committee reviewed and unanimously approved a bill, which will be formally presented at the March Faculty Senate meeting.