

**NC STATE UNIVERSITY**919.515.2191 (phone)  
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May 30, 2013

Dr. Suzanne Ortega  
Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs  
UNC-General Administration  
P.O. Box 2688  
Chapel Hill, NC 27515-2688

Dear Suzanne:

NC State requests approval from the Board of Governors to re-name and re-organize the College of Physical and Mathematical Sciences into a broader, more comprehensive College of Sciences, effective July 1, 2013. The College of Sciences will include the physical/chemical sciences, the mathematical and statistical sciences, the biological sciences and earth system sciences. The primary goal of this change is to 1) Maximize the opportunity for exciting interdisciplinary collaborations between our already strong and growing programs in, for example, the biological and quantitative sciences while, 2) Achieving greater administrative efficiency by replacing four smaller departments in one college (Biology, Microbiology, Genetics and Toxicology) with one larger department (Biological Sciences) in the College of Sciences and one department (Applied Ecology) in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS). We expect these changes to be revenue neutral in the long-term and furthermore we anticipate they will enhance our ability to compete even more successfully for external research dollars. Following my approval, the Board of Trustees was notified of the proposed changes to the college.

As noted above, the formation of the College of Sciences and the subsequent realignment of faculty between the colleges of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) and Sciences create the need for two new departments and also the re-naming of one existing department.

1. Within the College of Sciences we are creating a Department of Biological Sciences by combining the faculty moving to the college from the former departments of genetics, toxicology, microbiology and biology. This approach will result in the maximum flexibility and will allow us to achieve our goal of enhancing our world-class strength in analytics, computational science, and the modeling, projecting, and predicting of changes to living systems and the physical environment.
2. Within CALS we are creating a Department of Applied Ecology, with faculty working in the fields of ecology, fisheries, wildlife, aquaculture, environmental toxicology, and conservation biology – areas in which NC State University has a recognized national reputation. With colleagues across the campus, this new department will provide a focus that is unique at NC State University and within the UNC System and will establish an important, well-defined organization for the training of future generations of scientists to tackle global problems.

Dr. Suzanne Ortega

Page 2

May 30, 2013

3. Also within CALS we will change the name of the existing Department of Plant Biology to the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology to bring together faculty from two CALS life science departments, each of which is focused on the biology of a particular group of organisms; namely plants and microorganisms.

Following my approval, the Board of Trustees was notified of the creation of these two new departments along with the re-naming of one existing department.

These changes will not require any additions to or changes in existing academic programs that NC State University is currently authorized to offer. These changes also do not project growth in student enrollment, expansion of faculty numbers or additional budget requests. Resources required to initiate this change have already been identified in strategic reserves held within the university for implementation of key strategic initiatives. The creation of such academic synergies and the continued enhancement of institutional efficiency and effectiveness were identified as key goals in our 2011 Strategic Plan: Pathway to the Future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randolph Woodson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

W. Randolph Woodson  
Chancellor

cc: Dr. Warwick A. Arden, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor  
Dr. Daniel Solomon, Inaugural Dean, College of Sciences  
Dr. Richard Linton, Dean of the College of Agriculture & Life Sciences