PROPOSAL: Department of Geography

Background

The Executive Board of the Faculty Senate has approved changing the name of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography, Environment and Tourism. The addition of the terms environment and tourism better represent the programs in the department and research of the faculty. Also, recent data from the American Association of Geographers show that more than 50% of the 195 geography units in the United States have names using multiple words to better define the activities of the department. Locally, MSU, CMU and NMU all have the term “environment” in their departmental titles and MSU has attributed an increase in enrollment to the addition of that term to the title. The faculty feel that the name change is needed in order to compete for undergraduate and graduate students in the future.

Recommended Action

Change the name of the Department of Geography to the Department of Geography, Environment and Tourism.