



NORTHERN ARIZONA
UNIVERSITY
College of Social & Behavioral Sciences

Department of Psychology

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To: Steven Wright, Dean, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

From: Heidi A. Wayment, Chair, Psychology

Date: March 12, 2014

Re: Department name change

After consultation with the department faculty, the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences' Dean, the *Department of Psychology* proposes to change its name to the *Department of Psychological Sciences*. We would also like to change the names of our BA and BS Degrees accordingly. We would like to change our degrees from *BA or BS in Psychology* to *BA or BS in Psychological Sciences*.

The move to change our department name and degrees is to better reflect the scientific basis of our discipline. Although departments of psychology started making these types of changes beginning in the 1970s, this national trend has gained significant momentum in the past decade. Some departments have chosen new names chiefly to enhance the perception of psychology as a science, whereas others have done so to reflect the ongoing integration of behavioral and brain research. All of them recognize that the name *Department of Psychology* presents an inadequate picture of what goes on in many programs. The American Psychological Association Conference on Undergraduate Education in Psychology has also recommended that psychology departments consider changing their name to Psychological Science or Psychological Sciences because it is a label that emphasizes the scientific nature of our discipline. Our department has been contemplating this name change for several years but felt that our curriculum needed to be brought up to national standards in terms of math prerequisites and number of natural science courses to be added to the curriculum. These changes were approved in the fall and will take effect in Fall 2014. Our departmental curriculum changes reflect a curricula based on rigorous empirical investigation that psychology shares with the natural sciences. We believe that these changes are an important part of our multi-faceted effort to raise students' awareness about the richness of our program as well as facilitate their educational and professional success.

Thank you for consideration of our proposal.

Approved

3-14-14



**NORTHERN ARIZONA
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To: Dr. Laurie Dickson, Associate Vice Provost

From: Dr. Stephen Wright, Dean

Stephen Wright

Date: March 13, 2014

Re: Support for Change of Name for Department of Psychology

I am writing to offer my support for the change of name for the Department of Psychology. I understand that there has been serious discussion of this potential change for some time, and that this has the full support of the department. I support the change of name to Department of Psychological Sciences, and the change of degree names to BA/BS in Psychological Sciences.

Thanks for considering this request.