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## Fwd: CNAS | Name change of Department of Botany & Plant Sciences to Department of Plant Sciences

1 message

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**Elizabeth Watkins** <elizabeth.watkins@ucr.edu>

Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 1:19 PM

To: Kenneth Barish <kenneth.barish@ucr.edu>

Cc: Cherysa Cortez <cherysa.cortez@ucr.edu>, CNAS Dean <cnasdean@ucr.edu>, Thomas Eulgem <teulgem@ucr.edu>

Dear Ken,

Please find attached the three required documents to initiate a department name change within CNAS, per the attached procedure.

I look forward to hearing back from you.

Liz

Elizabeth Watkins, PhD

Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor

UC Riverside

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **CNAS Dean** . <cnasdean@ucr.edu>

Date: Thu, Apr 9, 2026 at 12:30 PM

Subject: CNAS | Name change of Department of Botany & Plant Sciences to Department of Plant Sciences

To: Elizabeth Watkins <elizabeth.watkins@ucr.edu>

Hello Provost Watkins,

Please find the attached letters for your review and records.

Sincerely,

Peter W. Atkinson, Ph.D.

Dean

College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences

2315 Olmsted Hall (Dean's Office)

2234A Genomics Building (Faculty Office)

University of California

Riverside, CA 92521, USA

Ph: 951-827-3101

e-mail: [peter.atkinson@ucr.edu](mailto:peter.atkinson@ucr.edu)

<https://atkinsonlabentm.ucr.edu/>

Executive Assistant: Jennifer Markovski

(office) 951-827-4597

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# MEMORANDUM

TO: Peter Atkinson, Dean of CNAS, UC-Riverside

FROM: Thomas Eulgem, Chair, Department of Botany & Plant Sciences, UC-Riverside

DATE: October, 26, 2025

RE: Name change of *Department of Botany & Plant Sciences* to ***Department of Plant Sciences***

Dear Dean Atkinson,

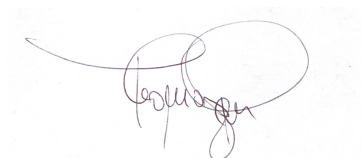
On behalf of the UCR Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, I am requesting your approval to change the name of our department to **Department of Plant Sciences**. Our department voted in favor of this change through an online ballot conducted from July 20 to July 28, 2025.

As discussed in several faculty meetings and during our annual one-day retreat prior to the vote, the current department name is unnecessarily complex and contains two partially redundant components. We also feel that the term *Botany* is often perceived by students, funding agencies, and the general public as outdated and not reflective of the cutting-edge research and pioneering directions our department pursues at the forefront of plant-related genomics, metabolomics, synthetic Biology, biotechnology, bioinformatics, ecology, and agronomy.

Furthermore, we believe that the proposed name, *Plant Sciences*, well represents the full breadth of expertise within our department, which spans basic, translational, and applied research, as well as cooperative extension activities.

Please let me know if any additional information is needed. Thank you very much for considering our request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eulgem', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the left.

Thomas Eulgem



March 26th, 2026

TO: Peter W. Atkinson, Dean, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

CC: Thomas Eulgem, Chair, Department of Botany & Plant Sciences, UC-Riverside

**RE: Name change of Department of Botany & Plant Sciences to Department of Plant Sciences**

Dean Atkinson,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed and discussed the proposed name change from Department of Botany & Plant Sciences to Department of Plant Sciences at their January 20th meeting and voted unanimously in support of this change.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Harry Tom'.

Harry Tom, Ph.D

Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

To: Elizabeth Watkins, Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor  
From: Peter W. Atkinson, Dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences  
Date: April 9, 2026  
Subject: Proposed name change by the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences

Dear Provost Watkins,

The Department of Botany & Plant Sciences has voted to change its name to the Department of Plant Sciences. I concur with the Faculty of the Department that this proposed name change is warranted by the reasons outlined in Chair Eulgem's memorandum. I also note the CNAS Faculty Executive Committee's approval. In my opinion, the proposed name change will further enhance the Department's ability to grow its enrollment, research portfolio, and faculty size in the decades ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P.W. Atkinson".

Peter W. Atkinson  
Dean, College of Natural & Agricultural Sciences  
University of California, Riverside

## CAMPUS PROCEDURE FOR NAME CHANGE FOR AN ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

The October 30, 1972 statement from Vice President C. O. McCorkle, Jr. notes that Chancellors are authorized to establish procedures for the initiation of name changes of academic departments. The procedures followed on the Riverside campus are:

1. The department writes a proposal addressed to the dean of the college/school.
2. The dean sends the proposal to the college/school executive committee for review and recommendation.
3. The dean himself/herself makes a recommendation addresses to the Executive Vice Chancellor.
4. The three above items shall be forwarded to the Executive Vice Chancellor.
5. The Executive Vice Chancellor will refer the request to the Academic Senate Division Chair who will refer the request to the committees he/she believes appropriate (generally Academic Personnel, Educational Policy, Planning and Budget, and Graduate Council). The Senate Executive Council will review the recommendations and forward the item to the Division for action.  
Please note the following Senate requirements
  1. The name change request will be received by Executive Council at a meeting attended by the Chair of the corresponding College Executive Committee (or his/her replacement)
  2. The name change proposal must be presented to the Division by the Chair or a member of the affected department/ program (no replacements here)
  3. If despite these precautions an error/typo is approved, the only recourse will be for the department/program to initiate the name-change anew
6. When the Executive Vice Chancellor receives a positive Academic Senate response from the Division, he/she will forward the recommendation for the name change to the Office of the President.