

September 18, 2017

TO:

John Karl Scholz, L&S Dean

FROM:

Jeff Hardin, Professor and Chair, Department of Integrative Biology

RE:

Request to change building names

CC:

Christopher Bruhn, L&S Assistant Dean for Facilities and Space Assignments

Eric Wilcots, L&S Associate Dean for the Natural and Mathematical Sciences

With the recent change of our department name from Zoology to Integrative Biology, I am hereby requesting changes to the names of two of our buildings: Lowell E. Noland Zoology Building and the Zoology Research Building.

As you are aware, the name "Zoology" connoted an exclusive focus on animal biology, whereas current research and teaching in our department focuses on understanding biological processes, rather than particular taxonomic groups. While half of our faculty members do study aspects of animal biology (the primary focus of the traditional field of zoology), the others focus on diverse areas such as molecular and cellular processes, evolution, neurobiology, trophic webs, and landscape ecology; these disciplines are not so neatly confined to animals. As you also know, our department supports the cross-college Biology major, sharing oversight with CALS, and serves as the administrative home for undergraduate majors in Molecular Biology, Neurobiology, and Zoology. Not only does our new department name of Integrative Biology better reflect our teaching and research initiatives, it communicates to students what can be found within the department and will help us strengthen collaborations across campus for years to come.

Since July 1, 2017 when the department name change became effective, we have collaborated with L&S on our communication plan to alumni and campus partners regarding the rationale and importance of the department name change. As two of our buildings have the name "Zoology" within them, we feel that modifying the building names, as proposed below, will help greatly with our department's rebranding efforts. Specifically:

Current Name

Proposed New Name

Zoology Research Building

Integrative Biology Research Building

Lowell E. Noland Zoology Building

Lowell E. Noland Hall

Thank you for notifying Lowell Noland's son, Wayland Noland, this summer regarding the department name change and the proposal to modify the building name.

I am extremely grateful for the support of the College with our department renaming efforts and appreciate your consideration of this request.

Department of Integrative Biology

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