



UNIVERSITY
OF
CALIFORNIA

Steven W. Cheung
Chair, Assembly of the
Academic Senate
Faculty Representative,
UC Board of Regents

Academic Senate

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

senate.universityofcalifornia.edu

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May 29, 2025

Katherine S. Newman
Provost and Executive Vice President
University of California

Re: Approval of Simple Name Change for the UCSB College of Engineering

Dear Provost Newman:

In accordance with Section III.B.2 of the [Universitywide Review Processes For Academic Programs, Units, and Research Units](#) (the "Compendium"), the Academic Council has approved UC Santa Barbara's proposal for a simple name change of its College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering.

The Senate's three Compendium Committees ([CCGA](#), [UCEP](#), and [UCPB](#)) are also unanimous in support of UC Santa Barbara's proposal. Their supporting memos are attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Steven W. Cheung
Chair, Academic Council

cc: Academic Council
UCSB Chancellor Yang
UCSB Division Chair Raley
UCSB Senate Executive Director Delp
Executive Vice Chancellor Marshall
Dean Mishra
Institutional Research and Academic Planning Analyst Procello
Executive Director Lin



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COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

James Bisley, Chair
jbisley@mednet.ucla.edu

May 19, 2025

Steven W. Cheung
Chair, Academic Senate

RE: Name Change: UCSB College of Engineering

Dear Chair Cheung,

At its May 7 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) reviewed a proposal from the UCSB division to change the name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering.

After discussion, the committee voted 10-0-1 to concur with the campus action.

Please let me know if I can answer any questions for you regarding this decision.

Sincerely,

James Bisley
Chair, CCGA

cc: Academic Senate Vice Chair Palazoglu
CCGA Members
Academic Senate Executive Director Lin
Academic Senate Assistant Director LaBriola
Academic Planning and Research Analyst Procello
UCSB Interim Graduate Dean Rupp
UCSB Senate Executive Director Delp
UCSB Senate Analyst Gifford



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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)

Tim Groeling
groeling@comm.ucla.edu

May 7, 2025

Steven Cheung
Chair, Academic Council

RE: UC Santa Barbara Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

Dear Steven,

UCPB reviewed the proposed simple name change for UC Santa Barbara's College of Engineering in honor of former Dean Robert Mehrabian during our May 6 committee meeting.

Members agreed that it was a simple name change and that it was appropriate to rename the College for a well-regarded former Dean who has proved himself a staunch supporter of UCSB. They noted no significant budget impacts to the campus and were in unanimous support of changing the name of the College of Engineering to the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering.

Sincerely,

Tim Groeling
Chair, UCPB

cc: UCPB



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Academic Senate

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)

Rachael Goodhue, Chair

goodhue@primal.ucdavis.edu

May 6, 2025

Steven W. Cheung

Chair, UC Academic Council

RE: UCSB Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to
The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

Dear Steven,

UCEP discussed the UC Santa Barbara proposal to change the name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering during our May 5th videoconference. We endorsed the proposed simple name change.

UCEP appreciates the opportunity to opine on this matter. Don't hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rachael Goodhue, Chair
UCEP

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Office of the Chancellor
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2030
Phone: (805) 893-2231
www.chancellor.ucsb.edu

April 25, 2025

Katherine S. Newman
Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
UC Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

Steven Cheung
Chair, Systemwide Academic Senate
University of California
1111 Franklin St., 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Re: Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

Dear Provost Newman and Chair Cheung:

On behalf of the University of California, Santa Barbara, I am pleased to forward the enclosed proposal for a name change to an academic unit. The College of Engineering proposes to change its name to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering.

At its meeting on April 24, 2025, the UC Santa Barbara Faculty Legislature endorsed this proposal by a vote of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, 7 abstentions. Prior to the Faculty Legislature's action, the proposal was unanimously endorsed by the Council on Planning and Budget, the Graduate Council, the Undergraduate Council, and the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Engineering.

Enclosed is a set of supporting documents for your review. If you endorse this proposed change, we respectfully request that the proposal be placed on the April 30 meeting agenda of the Academic Council for final approval.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry T. Yang".

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor

Enclosure

April 25, 2025

Page 2

cc: Monica Lin, Executive Director, Academic Senate
Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director and Academic Council Analyst, Academic Senate
Rita Raley, Divisional Chair, UC Santa Barbara Academic Senate
David Marshall, Executive Vice Chancellor
Umesh Mishra, Dean, College of Engineering



UC SANTA BARBARA

Academic Senate
Rita Raley, Chair
Shasta Delp, Executive Director

1233 Girvetz Hall
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3050
<http://www.senate.ucsb.edu>

April 24, 2025

To: Henry Yang, Chancellor
David Marshall, Executive Vice Chancellor

From: Rita Raley, Divisional Chair
Academic Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Raley", is placed next to the "From:" line.

Re: Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

At its April 24, 2025 meeting, the Faculty Legislature endorsed, by a vote of 30 in favor, 1 opposed, 7 abstentions, the proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering. Prior to the Faculty Legislature's action, the proposal was endorsed by the Council on Planning and Budget, the Graduate Council, the Undergraduate Council, and the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Engineering.

Cc: Christian Villaseñor, Assistant Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff
Yanoula Athanassakis, Director, Academic Planning and Policy

April 18, 2025

TO: Rita Raley, Chair
Academic Senate

FROM: Henry T. Yang 
Chancellor

RE: **Proposal for Name Change of Academic Unit – College of Engineering to
The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering**

My office has received a proposal for a name change to an academic unit from the College of Engineering. The College proposes to change its name to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering.

The proposal to change the name of the College of Engineering was distributed to the Council on Planning and Budget, Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, and Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Engineering. All groups unanimously supported the proposal.

Per policy, the Academic Senate has forwarded this proposal to my office for administrative review. Executive Vice Chancellor Marshall has reviewed the proposal and supporting documents and recommends that I provide administrative endorsement. I have carefully reviewed and considered all of the materials and concur with the Senate's appraisal of the proposal and the Executive Vice Chancellor's recommendation. As such, I offer administrative endorsement for this proposal.

With this administrative endorsement, the proposal is ready to be placed on the agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Faculty Legislature for legislative action. If the Legislature endorses the proposed change it will be ready for final administrative approval.

cc: David Marshall
Christian Villaseñor
Shasta Delp

April 17, 2025

To: Henry T. Yang
Chancellor

From: David Marshall 
Executive Vice Chancellor

RE: Proposal for Name Change to Academic Unit – College of Engineering to the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

We have received a “Proposal for Naming of the College of Engineering as The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering.” The proposal was distributed to the Council on Planning and Budget, Undergraduate Council, Graduate Council, and Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Engineering. All groups unanimously supported the proposal.

Per policy, the Academic Senate has forwarded this proposal to our offices for administrative review. I have carefully reviewed and considered all of the materials and concur with the Senate’s appraisal and offer my endorsement for the proposal to change the name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering. I recommend that you offer administrative endorsement.

After receiving administrative endorsement, the Senate will place the proposal on the Agenda of the upcoming meeting of the Faculty Legislature for legislative action. If the Legislature endorses the proposed change it will be ready for final administrative approval.

For your convenience I am attaching a draft of a memo of endorsement to the Senate.

Please let me know if you need any further information.



UC SANTA BARBARA

Academic Senate
Rita Raley, Chair
Shasta Delp, Executive Director

1233 Girvetz Hall
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3050
<http://www.senate.ucsb.edu>

April 17, 2025

To: David Marshall, Executive Vice Chancellor

From: Rita Raley, Divisional Chair
Academic Senate

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Raley", positioned next to the "From:" line.

Re: Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

The Academic Senate distributed the *Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering* to the Council on Planning and Budget, the Graduate Council, and the Undergraduate Council.

All three groups express their endorsement of the proposal and each of their responses is attached.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Cc: Christian Villaseñor, Executive Director for Academic Affairs
Yanoula Athanassakis, Director, Academic Planning and Policy

UC **SANTA BARBARA**
Academic Senate

DATE: April 17, 2025

TO: Rita Raley, Chair
Academic Senate

FROM: Jason Duque, Chair
Undergraduate Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jason Duque", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

RE: Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian
College of Engineering

On April 17th the Undergraduate Council (UgC) considered the Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering. The Council approved the proposal by consent.

CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

**Academic Senate
Santa Barbara Division**

April 14, 2025

To: Rita Raley, Divisional Chair
Academic Senate

From: Alexander Simms, Chair
Graduate Council



Re: Proposal to Change the Name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

At its meeting of April 7, 2025, Graduate Council reviewed the proposal to change the name of the College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering. The Council found the name change to be merited based on Dr. Mehrabian's work as Dean and continued philanthropy work for the College.

The Council voted 12 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention to approve the proposal.

CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
ACADEMIC SENATE
SANTA BARBARA DIVISION
Council on Planning & Budget

April 9, 2025

To: Rita Raley, Chair
UCSB Academic Senate

From: Barry Giesbrecht, Vice Chair
Council on Planning & Budget



Re: College of Engineering Name Change to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

The Council on Planning & Budget (CPB) has reviewed the proposal to rename the UCSB College of Engineering to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering submitted by Dean Mishra to the UCSB Academic Senate. The request to review this proposal came from Academic Senate Chair Rita Raley.

By a vote of 12 yes, 0 no, and 0 abstention (out of 14 eligible faculty members), the College of Engineering FEC proposes to name the College of Engineering “The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering”. This naming recognizes Dr. Mehrabian's visionary, transformative and impactful tenure as Dean of the college (1983-1990), as well as his exceptional philanthropic leadership to the College and campus. CPB notes from Dean Mishra’s memo that this proposal is made in collaboration with Chancellor Yang and “after a thorough campus consultation process.”

CPB reviewed the name change request based on the guidance and process detailed in “Compendium: University-wide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, & Research Units” (Section III.B.2, Sept. 2014 version). CPB concurs with Dean Mishra that this name change request falls under the category of “simple name change” as the new name does not reflect substantial curricular changes or resource requirements for the College of Engineering.

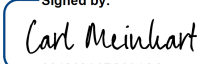
The review of the proposal indicates that the proposed name change requires no additional resources or FTE positions and does not impact the College of Engineering’s FTE plan or academic strategic planning. As such, CPB sees no objection and endorses the proposal to change the name of the college to The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering and looks forward to engaging in additional review if warranted.

cc: Shasta Delp, Academic Senate Executive Director
Francesco Bullo, CPB Chair


March 19, 2025

TO: Rita Raley
Divisional Chair, Academic Senate

FROM: Carl Meinhart,
College of Engineering, Faculty Executive Committee

Signed by: 
884262A07C384CC...

Dahlia Malkhi, Vice Chair
College of Engineering, Faculty Executive Committee

Signed by: 
4491773398416...

RE: Proposal to change the name of the College of Engineering to the Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering

The College of Engineering FEC met on Monday, March 17th and documents were distributed to the committee at large for review. A vote was taken via email. The committee strongly endorses this proposal.

12 yes, 0 no, 0 abstained (out of 14 eligible faculty members).

The choice to honorifically name the College of Engineering for Robert Mehrabian is based on both academic and philanthropic merit. The committee remarked on the lasting impacts Dr. Mehrabian's leadership as Dean had on the college. As Dean, Dr. Mehrabian recruited and hired faculty in clusters, strengthening engineering specialties, and strongly supporting new, young faculty. He was the first Dean to partner with industry to satisfy startup equipment needs and broke down barriers between departments and research areas by hiring jointly appointed professors. Committee members remarked on their own experiences and usefulness of the open access user facilities that Dr. Mehrabian spearheaded and ultimately wielded to recruit top talent to UCSB.

Since his departure from UCSB, Dr. Mehrabian continues to support the College of Engineering and has established 17 endowed chairs and a flexible endowment. His philanthropy supports the college in prioritizing recruitment and retention of top faculty.

Dr. Mehrabian is a phenomenal academic and was a phenomenal Dean. The committee members are excited for the prospect of this naming change and the momentum it will bring to the college.

Rita Raley/ UCSB Academic Senate
Chair, UCSB Academic Senate

March 18, 2025

To: UCSB Academic Senate, University of California

From: Umesh Mishra, Dean, College of Engineering, UC Santa Barbara



Subject: Proposal for Naming the UCSB College of Engineering as “The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering”

Introduction:

In collaboration with our Campus Chancellor, Henry Yang, and after a thorough campus consultation process, I am writing to propose naming the College of Engineering at UC Santa Barbara as “The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering,” on both honorific and philanthropic grounds. This naming recognizes Dr. Mehrabian's visionary, transformative and impactful tenure as former Dean of the College, as well as his exceptional philanthropic leadership to the College.

After consultation with the Office of the President and consistent with the UC Academic Senate Compendium,¹ it has been determined that this naming should qualify as a “simple name change” as no program or structure change will occur.

Background

Robert Mehrabian is a highly distinguished individual with remarkable achievements and leadership positions at the highest levels of academia and industry.

Dr Mehrabian received his bachelor's and Doctor of Science degrees in Metallurgy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He served as an assistant and associate professor in the Department of Metallurgy at MIT from 1968 to 1975 and subsequently as a professor at the University of Illinois from 1975 to 1979. Dr. Mehrabian led the UCSB College of Engineering as Dean from 1983 to 1990 and was President of Carnegie Mellon University from 1990 to 1997. Additionally, he directed the Center for Materials Science at the National Institute of Standards and Technology and served as a senior advisor to multiple Fortune 500 companies. He holds eight U.S. and 40 foreign patents, authored 139 technical papers, and edited six materials science books. His numerous accolades include election to the National Academy of Engineering (1984), the Henry Marion Howe Medal, and fellowships from ASM International and TMS (The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society). He also holds honorary doctorates from Carnegie Mellon (Sc.D.) and Chatham College (L.H.D.).

¹ According to the UC Academic Senate Compendium, Section III.B.2 Name Changes of Schools and Colleges, a simple name change does not involve a reconstitution. Typically, a simple name change is sought to accommodate popular and accepted changes in the nomenclature of an academic field or discipline. It is a change that is not associated with any substantive modification to curricular offerings or resource needs of academic programs and units.”

Since 1999, Robert Mehrabian has held key leadership positions at Teledyne Technologies, including Chairman, President, and CEO, driving the company's substantial growth and transformation into a leading industrial conglomerate. A highly respected industry leader, he is recognized for his strategic vision, transformative leadership, and commitment to innovation. Under his guidance, Teledyne has expanded its presence in high-tech sectors such as digital imaging, electronics, and environmental and space instrumentation including the infrared imager for the James Webb telescope which gives us a deep view of the distant universe, the star forming region in our Milky Way and insight into the origins of the universe. His disciplined approach to operations, strategic acquisitions, and emphasis on technological advancement have been instrumental in the company's success. Dr. Mehrabian's background in materials science and his tenure in academia have further enhanced his expertise, making him a pivotal figure in bridging advanced research with practical industrial applications.

Achievements as Dean of the UCSB's College of Engineering

Dr. Mehrabian served as Dean of UCSB's College of Engineering from 1983 to 1990, during which time he implemented a visionary plan significantly enhancing the College's academic prestige and research capabilities. Key achievements under his leadership include:

- **Strategic Development:** Dean Mehrabian strategically elevated the College's prominence in key areas such as semiconductors, optoelectronics, and advanced materials science. He founded and nurtured the world-renowned Materials department and led major expansions such as the Engineering Building II.
- **Faculty Expansion:** Dean Mehrabian recruited 69 distinguished faculty members, 22 of whom have been elected to prestigious bodies such as the National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Sciences, and the Royal Society.
- **Collaborative Culture:** Dean Mehrabian established the collaborative culture that continues to define the College today. By pioneering unprecedented joint faculty appointments across multiple departments and fostering interdisciplinary research initiatives, he enabled faculty to combine their diverse expertise to address critical engineering challenges through investments in shared instrumentation and facilities. These efforts significantly elevated the stature of the College and the university as a whole, laying the foundation for the top-tier national and international rankings now enjoyed by numerous departments and the entire College of Engineering.

Today, we still embrace his vision of a collaborative College of Engineering as a catalyst for positive change, a beacon of innovation, and a model of inclusive excellence.

Philanthropic Impact

The proposed naming also recognizes the significant philanthropic donor investments over time that promise to enhance not only the College but also the broader UCSB

campus. This giving from Robert and Victoria Mehrabian, long-time benefactors of UCSB, is a large endowment, currently with a market-value at \$65M and is the largest single endowment at the Santa Barbara campus. The funding supports the establishment of both 17 endowed chairs and a flexible endowment for the college. This perpetual funding is poised to provide substantial resources towards faculty recruitment and retention, including student support, research initiatives, and infrastructure development as examples. We believe that such a transformative gift elevates UCSB's academic profile and fosters interdisciplinary collaborations across the university.

Rationale for Naming

Naming the College of Engineering after Dr. Mehrabian is justified by:

- His exceptional leadership, which has left an enduring positive impact on the institution's trajectory, academic reputation, and research achievements.
- The breadth of his influence, evidenced by the significant proportion of recruited faculty achieving distinguished recognition and the elevation of the stature of the College of Engineering.
- His continued commitment to UCSB's mission and future, exemplified through substantial philanthropic contributions aimed at ensuring the College's sustained excellence.

Conclusion and Recommendation

In recognition of Dr. Mehrabian's extraordinary contributions, both honorific and philanthropic, it is strongly recommended that the UCSB College of Engineering be officially named:

"The Robert Mehrabian College of Engineering"

Understanding the importance of shared governance and the role of the Academic Senate in such decisions, we are eager to engage in a comprehensive review and discussion. We have prepared detailed documentation outlining a review of the donor(s), their reputation, career success, and investment in UCSB. The envisioned impact on the College and University is enormous and in full alignment with UCSB's strategic goals. The proposed naming will have a broad impact and will hopefully encourage philanthropy for the broader UCSB campus.

Given the significance of this opportunity, we kindly request that this matter be added to the agenda for timely review. We are prepared to present our proposal and address any questions or concerns that may arise.

On behalf of the College of Engineering at UCSB, I respectfully submit this proposal for consideration and approval.