



UNIVERSITY
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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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June 26, 2025

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

Re: Approval of Simple Name Change for the UCSD Graduate School of
Marine Sciences

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 the UC San Diego division’s proposal to change the name of the School of Marine Sciences to the School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences.

The Senate’s three Compendium Committees ([CCGA](#), [UCEP](#), and [UCPB](#)) are also unanimous in support of UC San Diego’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
UCSD Chancellor Khosla
UCSD Division Chair Graeve
UCSD Senate Executive Director Hullings
Executive Vice Chancellor Simmons
Vice Chancellor Leinen
Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Continetti
Institutional Research and Academic Planning Analyst Procello
Executive Director Lin



Academic Senate

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COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS

James Bisley, Chair

jbisley@mednet.ucla.edu

June 13, 2025

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Steven W. Cheung
Academic Senate Chair

RE: Name Change: UCSD School of Marine Sciences

Dear Chair Cheung,

At its June 4 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) reviewed a proposal from the UCSD division to change the name of the School of Marine Sciences to the School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences.

After discussion, the committee voted unanimously 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
UCSD Interim Dean of Graduate Studies Kim

UCSD Academic Senate Executive Director Hullings
UCSD Academic Senate Associate Director Hill



Academic Senate

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UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)

Tim Groeling
groeling@comm.ucla.edu

June 9, 2025

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Steven Cheung
Chair, Academic Council

RE: UC San Diego Proposal to Rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences

Dear Steven,

UCPB reviewed the proposed simple name change for UC San Diego's Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences.

Members agreed that it was a simple name change and that it was appropriate to rename the School to better describe its work. They noted no significant budget impacts to the campus and were in unanimous support of changing the name of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences.

Sincerely,

Tim Groeling
Chair, UCPB

cc: UCPB



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Academic Senate

Office of the President
1111 Franklin Street
Oakland, CA 94607

senate.universityofcalifornia.edu

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY (UCEP)

Rachael Goodhue, Chair

goodhue@primal.ucdavis.edu

June 2, 2025

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Steven W. Cheung
Chair, UC Academic Council

RE: UCSD Proposal to Change the Name of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences

Dear Steven,

UCEP discussed the UCSD Proposal to Change the Name of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences during our June 2nd 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



OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR

9500 GILMAN DRIVE # 0005
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0005
TEL: (858) 534-3135
FAX: (858) 534-6523

May 8, 2025

PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT KATHERINE S. NEWMAN

University of California

Office of the President

ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR STEVEN CHEUNG

University of California

Systemwide Academic Senate Office

SUBJECT: Proposal to Rename UC San Diego's Graduate School of Marine Sciences

Dear Provost Newman and Academic Council Chair Cheung,

I am pleased to submit a request to change the name of UC San Diego's Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the "School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences." The San Diego Divisional Academic Senate approved the proposal at its April 15, 2025 meeting. Enclosed is the proposal, including rationale and justification for the simple name change, as well as documentation of campus administration and Divisional Senate approvals. Per UC Compendium III.B.2, following campus-level approval, the proposal must be reviewed and approved by the systemwide Academic Council before it can be submitted to the UC President for final review and approval.

If you have any questions or need further information regarding this submission, please contact Executive Vice Chancellor Elizabeth H. Simmons at (858) 534-3130, or by email: evc@ucsd.edu.

With kind regards,

Pradeep K. Khosla
Chancellor

Attachment

cc: Olivia Graeve, Chair, San Diego Divisional Academic Senate
Lori Hullings, San Diego Divisional Senate Executive Director
Margaret Leinen, Vice Chancellor for Marine Sciences
Elizabeth H. Simmons, Executive Vice Chancellor
Robert Continetti, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor
Alison Sanders, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff

April 30, 2025

ELIZABETH H. SIMMONS
Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Proposal to rename UC San Diego's Graduate School of Marine Sciences

Dear EVC Simmons,

The San Diego Divisional Representative Assembly approved the proposal to rename UC San Diego's Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the "School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences" at its April 15, 2025 meeting. The proposal as approved by the Representative Assembly is attached.

The next step is for the Chancellor to submit the proposal to UCOP Provost Katherine Newman and Academic Council Chair Steven Cheung. The proposal must ultimately be reviewed and approved by the systemwide Academic Council before it can be submitted to the UC President for final approval.

Please send the proposal to senateproposalsubmission@ucop.edu and copy me, as well as San Diego Divisional Senate Executive Director Lori Hullings, and UC Senate Executive Director Monica Lin.

Sincerely,



Olivia A. Graeve, Chair
San Diego Divisional Academic Senate

Attachment

cc: Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor
Robert Continetti, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Yuri Fialko, Chair, SIO Faculty Council
Jeff Gattas, Associate Chancellor and Chief of Staff
Kelly Kish, Associate Chancellor
Judy Kim, Interim Dean, Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs
Margaret Leinen, Vice Chancellor and Dean, Graduate School of Marine Sciences
John Moore, Dean, Undergraduate Education
Alison Sanders, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff, Academic Affairs
Rebecca Jo Plant, Senate Vice Chair
Lori Hullings, Senate Executive Director

February 13, 2025

ELIZABETH H. SIMMONS
Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Review of Graduate School of Marine Sciences Name Change Request

Dear EVC Simmons,

The proposal to rename UC San Diego's Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the "School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences" was discussed at the February 10, 2025 Senate Council meeting. Senate Council endorsed the proposal, and it will be placed on the April 15, 2025 Representative Assembly meeting agenda.

Sincerely,



Olivia A. Graeve
Chair
San Diego Divisional Academic Senate

cc: Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor
Robert Continetti, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Jeff Gattas, Associate Chancellor and Chief of Staff
Kelly Kish, Associate Chancellor
Judy Kim, Interim Dean, Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs
Margaret Leinen, Vice Chancellor and Dean, Graduate School of Marine Sciences
John Moore, Dean, Undergraduate Education
Alison Sanders, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff
Rebecca Jo Plant, Senate Vice Chair
Lori Hullings, Senate Executive Director



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
TEL: (858) 534-3130

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URL: WWW.EVC.UCSD.EDU

Olivia Graeve, Chair
Academic Senate

January 29, 2025

Subject: School of Marine Sciences Name Change Request

Dear Chair Graeve,

I endorse the attached proposal to rename UC San Diego's Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the "School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences."

No curricular, policy, or budget changes would result from this renaming. Rather, it will align the school's name more closely with its existing research and educational mission.

We appreciate the Senate's consideration of this request.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth H. Simmons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Elizabeth H. Simmons
Executive Vice Chancellor

Cc: Pradeep K. Khosla, Chancellor
Robert Continetti, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor
Judy Kim, Interim Dean, Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs
Margaret Leinen, Vice Chancellor and Dean, Graduate School of Marine Sciences
John Moore, Dean, Undergraduate Education
Alison Sanders, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Chief of Staff



MARGARET LEINEN
DIRECTOR
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY

9500 GILMAN DRIVE
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TEL: (858) 534-2827
FAX: (858) 453-0167

January 24, 2025

TO: Elizabeth Simmons, Executive Vice Chancellor

FROM: Margaret Leinen, Vice Chancellor for Marine Sciences

RE: Change of Name for School of Marine Sciences

Following the guidance of the UC Compendium: Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, & Research Units, section III.B.2, I outline here the rationale and justification for a simple name change of UC San Diego's *Graduate School of Marine Sciences* to *School of Marine Earth, Atmospheric Sciences (SMEAS)*. This is a change in name only, with no request to change the existing academic programming within the School, or to request any additional resources.

Rationale

The *Scripps Institution of Oceanography Department* (SIO) is the sole department within the Graduate School of Marine Sciences. Academically, the SIO Department is divided into eight Curricular Groups: Applied Ocean Sciences, Biological Oceanography, Climate Sciences, Geophysics, Geosciences, Marine Biology, Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry, and Physical Oceanography. SIO's more than 100 professors and lecturers typically align themselves with one, and sometimes more, Curricular Groups. These groups set the graduate curriculum and run the annual admissions to SIO's graduate programs.

Although the School name implies that the SIO Department is only engaged in graduate education, the Department has always had an undergraduate program in Earth Science and in 2012 began a second undergraduate program in Marine Biology. Over the past decade the SIO Department has begun an additional program in Ocean and Atmospheric Science, taken on the administration of the interdisciplinary Environmental Systems Program and dramatically enlarged its undergraduate offerings. It currently has over 900 undergraduates enrolled in four tracks in the interdisciplinary Environmental Systems Program and in our three majors (Ocean and Atmospheric Science, Geosciences and Marine Biology). Thus, the School name has become unrepresentative of our academic profile.

In addition, over the past five decades, the Earth scientists in the SIO Department (comprising the Geophysics, Geosciences, and Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Curricular Groups) have provided evidence that students and potential faculty alike pass over Scripps Institution of Oceanography as a potential location for study or employment due to the lack of association of the name Scripps Institution of Oceanography with Earth Sciences. Geophysics curricula, for example, are typically found in Geosciences or Earth Sciences schools or departments. More recently, the growth in atmospheric

science and climate offerings within the SIO Department has led faculty from those fields to call attention to an analogous problem. A more inclusive School name would assist the community in recognizing the breadth of the scientific and academic endeavor undertaken at SIO.

The narrower scope of “oceanography” in comparison with the many fields that we encompass has also made it difficult for potential donors to understand and recognize the scope of research performed at SIO. This has led to missed funding opportunities, and difficulty in engaging with potential donors.

Changing the name of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to a name that better reflects the breadth of the scientific and academic enterprise at SIO will broaden and increase opportunities to reach potential students, faculty, and donors.

Justification

Given the global recognition of the *Scripps Institution of Oceanography* brand, it is not surprising that the Graduate School of Marine Sciences is not widely known. It does not come up in web searches; indeed, many of the SIO faculty were unaware that they were part of a Graduate School of Marine Sciences – or even that such a School existed at UC San Diego. Most fundamentally, however, “Marine Sciences” is a poor descriptor of the work conducted at SIO, excluding, as it does, solid earth processes, terrestrial geoscience, climate and atmospheric sciences, and only loosely covering fields such as genomics and engineering that are active at SIO. We therefore propose a broader, more inclusive School name that can be used to better reflect the SIO Department’s teaching missions. In addition, the broad undergraduate program and four undergraduate majors that are offered justify dropping the term ‘Graduate’ from the name of the School.

History

In 1960, Scripps Institution of Oceanography became a part of the newly established University of California - San Diego. The executive in charge of Scripps Institution of Oceanography had always been called the Director. In a memo dated October 23, 1964, an *ad hoc* committee recommended to then Chancellor York “that SIO be reorganized to include a Graduate School of Marine Sciences with a Dean as administrative officer. The Director of the Institution and the Dean of the School should be one and the same person.” In July of 1965, William Nierenberg was appointed as the new Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography. However, there was some discussion concerning an academic title. On October 13, 1965, the Committee on Educational Policy Committee recommended to Vice Chancellor Eckart that they felt “that it would not be advisable, at this time, to add to the name SIO ‘and Graduate School of Marine Sciences’.” The committee further recommended that the title of the SIO Director be modified to “Director and Dean of Graduate Marine Sciences, The Scripps Institution of Oceanography.” In an October 19, 1965 memo from John Galbraith to UC President Clark Kerr, this rather unwieldy title was modified to “Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Dean of Graduate Marine Sciences”. This is the title that was given to Director and Dean Nierenberg, and a Graduate School of Marine Sciences was formed to house the single SIO Department. In 1969, Director and Dean Nierenberg was given the additional title Vice Chancellor of Marine Sciences to reflect the breadth of non-academic activities and facilities, which all subsequent Directors of SIO have held.

The description of the Dean’s title for the marine science unit has varied over the intervening years; until recently it was usually written “Dean of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences” in spite of the SIO Department offering undergraduate degrees in Earth Science since UC San Diego was founded and in recent years adding other undergraduate majors. The most recent Director and Dean, Margaret Leinen,

was officially appointed “Dean of the School of Marine Sciences”, without the term “Graduate”. The SIO Faculty bylaws, approved by the Faculty of SIO on June 8, 1967, refer to the “Graduate School of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography”, which is inconsistent with the Dean’s title, and the fact that SIO no longer offers only graduate degrees. There has clearly been little attention paid to the exact title of the School, the Faculty, or the Dean since the mid-1960s.

In the last two decades, SIO’s academic mission has expanded greatly: in addition to the PhD degree, the graduate programs now include two MAS programs and MS degrees. Most significantly, SIO now hosts three undergraduate majors (Geosciences, Marine Biology, Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences), a set of four tracks under the Environmental Systems major, as well as four minors (Marine Science, Geosciences, Earth Sciences, and Climate Change Studies). The enrollment of the Marine Biology, Oceanic and Atmospheric and Environmental Systems majors have increased steadily since their inception; the large size of the undergraduate program has influenced faculty hiring and refocused teaching responsibilities within the SIO Department. Discussions of the name and structure of the SIO Department have been ongoing since 2019, but have been interrupted by the COVID19 pandemic and considerations arising from the unionization of graduate students at UCSD. No consensus has formed around a change in the name or structure of the Department.

SIO is clearly much more than a graduate school; that name is now obsolete. SIO is also much more than a Department devoted solely to marine science. The naming of the School of Marine Sciences around 1965 was accomplished to accommodate the expanded responsibilities of the SIO Director. However, this name no longer reflects the multiple and diverse strengths of the department or institution of SIO.

Consultation

In 2020, Dean Leinen asked then-SIO Department Chair Peter Franks to pursue the possibility of changing the name of the Graduate School of Marine Science. Chair Franks convened an *ad hoc* committee comprising former SIO Department Chairs and the SIO Executive Committee. After lengthy discussion, this *ad hoc* committee prepared a list of 20 potential names for the School, including no change from the present (Graduate School of Marine Sciences). The *ad hoc* committee voted on their top three choices; this led to a narrowing of the list to 6 potential names (including no change).

The nature and results of the *ad hoc* committee’s deliberations were presented at a series of SIO Department and Faculty meetings, where the proposal to rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences was presented and discussed. There was broad support for the idea of changing the name of the School to be more reflective of the breadth of our programs. The SIO Faculty called for a vote on the potential names, recognizing that the vote would not be binding, but would be advisory to the Dean. In July 2021, the SIO Faculty voted on the 6 names, and had the option of making additional suggestions.

During the SIO Department and Faculty meetings, the elements of a potential new School name were discussed. There was general agreement that “Earth” should be included as part of the name. There was considerable discussion of whether the new name should include “Atmospheric” or “Climate”. Persuasive arguments were presented favoring “Atmospheric” over “Climate”, mostly related to the fact that many of SIO’s atmospheric scientists do not study climate processes: “Climate” was thought to be overly restrictive.

All voting was strongly in favor of changing the name of the School. The voting identified two clear preferred groups of categories to be included in the new “School of _____ Sciences” name:

- Atmospheric, Earth, Marine
- Atmospheric, Earth, Ocean

The voting showed a preference for the order “Earth, Atmospheric, and Marine/Ocean Sciences.”

After the SIO Faculty vote, these options were presented to the SIO Educational Policy Committee for review and comment. The SIO EPC endorsed the SIO Faculty’s vote and recommended that the top names be communicated to Dean Leinen for discussion and selection of the top candidate.

Dean Leinen, presented the top names to the SIO leaders of Communications, Development, and the Research and Academics Committee (of faculty) for further discussion to determine whether they identified any other considerations. There were none. Based on the advice of the Faculty and these further discussions with support groups, our proposed new name for the School of Marine Sciences was School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences.

In January 2022 Dean Leinen wrote to EVC Simmons proposing the change in name. When this proposal went to Academic Senate for discussion, the Senate reviewed the process by which the proposed name was developed. They raised questions about whether the process was in compliance with Academic Senate procedures and in a March 16, 2023 memo Senate Chair Postero informed the SIO Faculty that Senate would not be endorsing the name until further consultation had taken place, especially to address concerns from marine biologists.

In 2023 Dean Leinen requested that Faculty Chair Andrew Allen develop a process for discussing and voting on a name change that would be in compliance with Academic Senate processes and that would consider the concerns of the marine biologists. The SIO Faculty engaged in a process that extended over a year. On November 7, 2024, Faculty Chair Yuri Fialko wrote to Dean Leinen to document the consultation and a ranked order voting process (attached). The SIO Faculty’s choice of a new name for the School is “School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences”.

Comparison to Other Institutions’ Names

The current “Graduate School of Marine Sciences” is the only School or College of that name that appears in web searches. There are units with the name “School of Marine Science” at the University of Maine and at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science.

Looking at the proposed new name, School of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, institutions in North America that have similar scopes of educational programs to SIO’s include:

- College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences – Oregon State University
- Graduate School of Oceanography – University of Rhode Island
- School of Oceanography – University of Washington
- Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences – MIT
- Earth and Ocean Sciences – University of Victoria
- Earth and Atmospheric Sciences – Cornell University
- School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences – University of Miami
- School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences – Univ. Texas Rio Grande Valley
- School of Geosciences – Florida State University
- School of Geosciences – University of Texas, Austin
- College of Geosciences – Texas A and M University

Our proposed School name is similar to several existing college, department, or school names, but identical to none. The new School name will better reflect the breadth of the research and academic enterprise at SIO.

Concurrent Changes

With a change in the name of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences, a few other names will also need to be changed:

- The title of the Dean (presently Dean of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences or Dean of the School of Marine Sciences as described above) will be changed to Dean of the School of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.
- The name of the SIO Faculty should be changed from the Faculty of the Graduate School of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to the Faculty of the School of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences.

Summary

Over the past decade Scripps Institution of Oceanography has expanded its undergraduate curriculum dramatically. In addition to teaching over 6000 different students annually, there are almost 900 undergraduates majoring in one of SIO's four undergraduate major degrees or one of the four tracks of the Environmental Systems Program. As a result, we believe it is appropriate to drop the term 'Graduate' from the name of the School. Furthermore, while there is currently only one department in UC San Diego's *Graduate School of Marine Sciences*, that department is very broad in scope and includes fields other than marine sciences. To better reflect the breadth of the academic programming and research enterprise, we propose to rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the *School of Marine, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences*. The name change will facilitate recognition of all the facets of our academic programs and better represent both the scope of our educational and research enterprise to the public. The titles of the Dean and the Faculty should be changed to reflect this larger scope.

Cc: Yuri Fialko, Chair, Faculty of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences
Lihini Aluwihare, Chair, Department of Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Attachment:

Nov 7, 2024 Letter from Faculty Chair Fialko to Dean Leinen

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

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CECIL H. AND IDA M. GREEN
 INSTITUTE OF GEOPHYSICS AND PLANETARY PHYSICS
 SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY (0225)

LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0225

November 7, 2024

TO: Margaret Leinen
 Dean, School of Marine Sciences

FROM: Yuri Fialko
 Chair, SIO Faculty

SUBJECT: Review of Graduate School of Marine Sciences Name Change

In response to the Senate request for additional consultations regarding the school name change (Re: Senate Chair Nancy Postero letter from 03/16/2023), the SIO Faculty held several meetings to consider various options for the name change. Previous discussions in 2020-2021 identified “School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Marine Sciences” as the preferred name. Subsequent reviews by the SIO Faculty committees resulted in a slightly modified version, “School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences”. The latter was put forward in a proposal submitted by the SIO Director and Dean of Marine Sciences Leinen to the EVC Simmons in 2022. Some academic groups at SIO (in particular, marine biologists) have since indicated that they are better represented by the name “Marine Sciences” than by “Ocean Sciences”. To address these concerns, we carried out several surveys to identify a school name that is inclusive and fully representative of our academic programs. At the faculty meeting held on June 18, 2024, the faculty has reviewed a list of 8 proposed names and narrowed it down to 6. The resulting list was presented for a ranked choice vote to the entire faculty (including Senate faculty and researchers) on June 21, 2024. The top choice was “School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Marine Sciences” (114 out of 148 submitted votes). Results of the vote were further discussed at the faculty meetings held on August 15 and September 26. The faculty has endorsed the three subject areas but requested an additional vote to determine their order. The respective ranked choice vote was held on September 30. The top choice was “School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences” (71 out of 104 submitted votes). The name “School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences” enjoys a broad support of the faculty, well represents the breadth of our academic programs, and is reflective of the history of SIO, which began as a marine biology station more than a century ago. I note that the Dean’s title has changed several times in the last 50 years, while the original school name, “Graduate School of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography”, formally has not, resulting in some confusion regarding the official school name. On behalf of the SIO Faculty, I thereby recommend that the original proposal for the new school name is modified to “School of Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences”.

Respectfully,

Yuri Fialko

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yuri Fialko', with a stylized, cursive script.

Chair of the SIO Faculty and its Executive Committee

March 16, 2023

ELIZABETH H. SIMMONS
Executive Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

SUBJECT: Review of Graduate School of Marine Sciences Name Change

Dear EVC Simmons,

The proposal to rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences was distributed to Senate standing committees and discussed at the March 13, 2023 Senate Council meeting. Prior to completing their review, Senate Council requested clarification and additional information regarding the consultation process with SIO Faculty. The letter from the SIO Faculty Chair notes that SIO Faculty broadly supported a name change and voted on six potential names in July 2021, but it is not clear what happened after that vote or how the final decision was made to advance the proposal with the name "School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences". Council was concerned that the SIO Faculty were not consulted prior to the final name being chosen and would like to ensure that the SIO Faculty had an opportunity to review the final proposal.

Council members noted that although the proposal indicates that this is a non-substantive name change, it could also be construed as a rebranding of SIO since the School name change appears to increase visibility in the area of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences and does not include Marine Biology. Please address how the proposed change will impact the current organizational structure in Marine Sciences and the SIO brand.

Sincerely,



Nancy Postero
Chair
San Diego Divisional Academic Senate

cc: Robert Continetti, Senior Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs
Jeff Gattas, Associate Chancellor
John Hildebrand, Senate Vice Chair
Lori Hullings, Senate Executive Director
Pradeep Khosla, Chancellor
Margaret Leinen, Vice Chancellor, Marine Sciences
Alison Sanders, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs

February 27, 2023

NANCY POSTERO, CHAIR
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Proposed Name Change – Graduate School of Marine Sciences

The Committee on Planning and Budget reviewed the request for a proposed name change of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to the School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences. EVC Simmons states *“The proposed name change more fully recognizes the breadth of research and educational programs carried out by the school. This is a change in name only, the proposal does not involve the creation of any new departments, and no curricular, policy, or budget changes would result from the renaming.”* The committee endorses the request for the proposed name change.

Sincerely,

Michael Provence, Chair
Committee on Planning & Budget

cc: J. Hildebrand

February 8, 2023

PROFESSOR NANCY POSTERO, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Review of the Proposed Name Change – Graduate School of Marine Sciences

At its January 23, 2023 meeting, the Educational Policy Committee (EPC) reviewed the proposal to rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to the School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences. The Committee endorsed the proposal, noting that the changes seem logical.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Cook, Chair
Educational Policy Committee

cc: J. Hildebrand
L. Hullings
J. Lucius
S. Mel

February 22, 2023

PROFESSOR NANCY POSTERO, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Review of the Proposed Name Change – Graduate School of Marine Sciences

At its February 13, 2023 meeting, the Graduate Council reviewed the proposal to rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to the School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences. The Council endorses the proposed name change.

Sincerely,

Timothy Gentner, Chair
Graduate Council

cc: J. Hildebrand
L. Hullings
J. Lucius

January 27, 2023

PROFESSOR NANCY POSTERO, Chair
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: Proposal to Change SIO Graduate School of Marine Sciences Name

At its January 13, 2022 meeting, the Undergraduate Council reviewed the proposal to change Scripps Institute of Oceanography's Graduate School of Marine Sciences Name to School of Earth Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences. The Council endorses this change.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Kaiser, Chair
Undergraduate Council

cc: J. Hildebrand
L. Hullings
J. Lucius
M. Rabinowitz-Bussell



OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE VICE CHANCELLOR
ACADEMIC AFFAIRS
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LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0001
URL: WWW.EVC.UCSD.EDU

Nancy Postero, Chair
UC San Diego Academic Senate

December 13, 2022

Subject: Proposed Name Change – Graduate School of Marine Sciences

Dear Nancy,

I endorse the proposal for submission to the Academic Senate requesting approval to rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to the School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences. The proposed change would more fully recognize the breadth of research and educational programs carried out by the school.

This is a change in name only, the proposal does not involve the creation of any new departments, and no curricular, policy, or budget changes would result from the renaming.

We appreciate the Senate's consideration of this request.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth H. Simmons".

Elizabeth H. Simmons
Executive Vice Chancellor
Distinguished Professor of Physics

CC: Senior Associate Vice Chancellor Continetti
Chancellor Khosla
Dean Leinen
Vice Chair Hildebrand
Assistant Vice Chancellor Sanders




MARGARET LEINEN
DIRECTOR
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January 5, 2022

TO: Elizabeth Simmons
Executive Vice Chancellor

FROM: Margaret Leinen 
Dean, School of Marine Sciences

Following the guidance of the UC Compendium: Universitywide Review Processes for Academic Programs, Academic Units, & Research Units, section III.B.2, I outline here the rationale and justification for a simple name change of UC San Diego's *Graduate School of Marine Sciences* to *School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences (SEAOS)*. This is a change in name only, with no request to change the existing academic programming within the School, or to request any additional resources.

Rationale

Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) is the sole department within the Graduate School of Marine Sciences. Academically, SIO is divided into eight Curricular Groups: Applied Ocean Sciences, Biological Oceanography, Climate Sciences, Geophysics, Geosciences, Marine Biology, Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry, and Physical Oceanography. SIO's more than 100 professors and lecturers typically align themselves with one, and sometimes more, Curricular Groups. These groups set the graduate curriculum and run the annual admissions to SIO's graduate programs. The size, breadth, and excellence of SIO's research and teaching are unusual both nationally, and globally.

SIO has earned a global reputation for the excellence of its research, teaching, service, and outreach. Given the broad reach, recognition, and positive associations of the *Scripps Institution of Oceanography* name, we have no current plans to change it.

Over the past five decades, the Earth scientists at SIO (comprising the Geophysics, Geosciences, and Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Curricular Groups) have provided evidence that students and potential faculty alike pass over SIO as a potential graduate school or department of employment due to the lack of association of the name *Scripps Institution of Oceanography* or 'SIO' with Earth Sciences. Geophysics, for example, is typically found in Geosciences or Earth Sciences departments. More recently, atmospheric scientists at SIO have called attention to an analogous problem for them. Placing these fields under the SIO department name makes it difficult for students and scientists to find that we represent them. A more inclusive School name would assist the community in recognizing the breadth of the scientific and academic endeavor undertaken at SIO.

The narrower scope of “oceanography” in comparison with the many fields that we encompass has also made it difficult for potential donors to understand and recognize the scope of research performed at SIO. While the name recognition of the *Scripps Institution of Oceanography* is excellent, the appreciation for the actual scope of research conducted at SIO is limited; this has led to missed funding opportunities, and difficulty in engaging with potential donors.

Changing the name of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to a name that better reflects the breadth of the scientific and academic enterprise at SIO will broaden and increase opportunities to reach potential students, faculty, and donors.

Justification

Given the global recognition of the *Scripps Institution of Oceanography* brand, it is not surprising that the Graduate School of Marine Sciences is not widely known. It does not come up in web searches; indeed, many of the SIO faculty were unaware that they were part of a Graduate School of Marine Sciences – or even that such a School existed at UC San Diego. Most fundamentally, however, “Marine Sciences” is a poor descriptor of the work conducted at SIO, excluding, as it does, solid earth processes and atmospheric sciences, and only loosely covering fields such as genomics and engineering that are active at SIO. We therefore propose a broader, more inclusive School name that can be used to better reflect the breadth of SIO’s research and teaching missions. In addition, the broad undergraduate program and seven undergraduate majors that are offered justify dropping the term ‘Graduate’ from the name of the School.

History

In 1960, a Department of Oceanography was established at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in the newly named UC San Diego. In July of 1965, William Nierenberg was appointed as the new Director of SIO. However, there was some discussion concerning his academic title. In a memo dated October 23, 1964, an *ad hoc* committee recommended to Chancellor York “that SIO be reorganized to include a Graduate School of Marine Sciences with a Dean as administrative officer. The Director of the Institution and the Dean of the School should be one and the same person.” On October 13, 1965, the Committee on Educational Policy Committee recommended to Vice Chancellor Eckart that they felt “that it would not be advisable, at this time, to add to the name SIO ‘and Graduate School of Marine Sciences’.” The committee further recommended that the title of the SIO Director be modified to “Director and Dean of Graduate Marine Sciences, The Scripps Institution of Oceanography.” In an October 19, 1965 memo from John Galbraith to UC President Clark Kerr, this rather unwieldy title was modified to “Director of Scripps Institution of Oceanography and Dean of Graduate Marine Sciences”. This is the title that was given to Director and Dean Nierenberg, and a Graduate School of Marine Sciences was formed to house the single SIO Department. In 1969, Director and Dean Nierenberg was given the additional title Vice Chancellor of Marine Sciences, which all subsequent Directors of SIO have held.

The description of the Dean’s title for the marine science unit has varied over the intervening years; until recently it was usually written “Dean of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences” in spite of SIO offering undergraduate degrees in Earth Science since UC San Diego was founded and that in recent years other undergraduate majors were approved. The most recent Director and Dean, Margaret Leinen, was officially appointed “Dean of the School of Marine Sciences”, without the term “Graduate”. The SIO Faculty bylaws, approved by the Faculty of SIO on June 8, 1967, refer to the “Graduate School of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography”, which is inconsistent with the Dean’s title, and the fact that

SIO no longer offers only graduate degrees. There has clearly been little attention paid to the exact title of the School, the Faculty, or the Dean since the mid-1960s, and the School's name is almost never used.

In the last two decades, SIO's academic mission has expanded greatly: in addition to the PhD degree, the graduate programs now include two MAS programs and MS degrees. Most significantly, SIO now hosts four undergraduate majors (Geosciences, Earth Sciences, Marine Biology, Oceanic and Atmospheric Sciences), a set of four tracks under the Environmental Systems major, as well as four minors (Marine Science, Geosciences, Earth Sciences, and Climate Change Studies). The enrollment of the Marine Biology, Oceanic and Atmospheric and Environmental Systems majors have increased steadily since their inceptions; the large size of the Marine Biology major has driven faculty hiring and refocused teaching responsibilities at SIO.

SIO is clearly much more than a graduate school; that name is now obsolete. SIO is also much more than a department devoted solely to marine science. The naming of the School of Marine Sciences around 1965 was accomplished to accommodate the expanded responsibilities of the SIO Director. However, this name no longer reflects the multiple and diverse strengths of the department or institution of SIO.

Consultation

In 2020, Dean Leinen asked then-SIO Department Chair Peter Franks to pursue the possibility of changing the name of the School of Marine Science. Chair Franks convened an ad hoc committee composed of former SIO Department Chairs and the SIO Executive Committee. After lengthy discussion, this *ad hoc* committee prepared a list of 20 potential names for the School, including no change from the present (Graduate School of Marine Sciences). The ad hoc committee voted on their top three choices; this led to a narrowing of the list to 6 potential names (including no change).

The nature and results of the *ad hoc* committee's deliberations were presented at a series of SIO Department and Faculty meetings, where the proposal to rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences was presented and discussed. There was broad support for the idea of changing the name of the School to be more reflective of the breadth of our programs. The SIO Faculty called for a vote on the potential names, recognizing that the vote would not be binding, but would be advisory to the Dean. In July 2021, the SIO Faculty voted on the 6 names, and had the option of making additional suggestions.

During the SIO Department and Faculty meetings, the elements of a potential new School name were discussed. There was general agreement that "Earth" should be included as part of the name. There was considerable discussion of whether the new name should include "Atmospheric" or "Climate". Persuasive arguments were presented favoring "Atmospheric" over "Climate", mostly related to the fact that many of SIO's atmospheric scientists do not study climate processes: "Climate" was thought to be overly restrictive, and unrepresentative of what the majority of SIO scientists do.

All voting was strongly in favor of changing the name of the School. The voting identified two clear preferred groups of categories to be included in the new "School of _____ Sciences" name:

- Atmospheric, Earth, Marine
- Atmospheric, Earth, Ocean

The voting showed a preference for the order "Earth, Atmospheric, and Marine/Ocean Sciences."

After the SIO Faculty vote, these options were presented to the SIO Educational Policy Committee for review and comment. The SIO EPC endorsed the SIO Faculty's vote and recommended that the top names be communicated to Dean Leinen for discussion and selection of the top candidate.

Dean Leinen, presented the top names to the SIO leaders of Communications, Development, Research, and Academics, for discussion. Based on the advice of the Faculty and these further discussions with support groups, our proposed new name for the School of Marine Sciences is:

School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences. This leads to the new acronym “**SEAOS**”.

Other Institutions' Names

The only “School of Marine Sciences” that appears in web searches is the School of Marine Science at the University of Maine; there is also a “School of Marine Science” at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Institutions in North America that have similar (but generally narrower) scopes of educational programs to SIO's include:

- College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences – Oregon State University
- Graduate School of Oceanography – University of Rhode Island
- School of Oceanography – University of Washington
- Department of Earth, Atmospheric and Planetary Sciences – MIT
- Earth and Ocean Sciences – University of Victoria
- Earth and Atmospheric Sciences – Cornell University
- Department of Marine Sciences – University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences – University of Miami
- Marine, Earth, and Atmospheric Sciences (in the College of Sciences) – NC State University
- School of Earth, Environmental, and Marine Sciences – Univ. Texas Rio Grande Valley
- School of Geosciences – Florida State University
- School of Geosciences – University of Texas, Austin
- College of Geosciences – Texas A and M University

Our proposed School name is similar to – but distinct from – these several existing college, department, or school names. The new School name will better reflect the breadth of the research and academic enterprise at SIO.

Concurrent Changes

With a change in the name of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences, a few other names will also need to be changed:

- The title of the Dean (presently Dean of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences or Dean of the School of Marine Sciences as described above) will be changed to Dean of the School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences.
- The name of the SIO Faculty will be changed from the Faculty of the Graduate School of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography to the Faculty of the School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences.

Summary

Over the past decade Scripps Institution of Oceanography has expanded its undergraduate teaching dramatically and in addition to teaching over 4000 different students annual, there are almost 900 undergraduates majoring in one of SIO's seven undergraduate major degrees. As a result, we believe it is appropriate to drop the term ‘Graduate’ from the name of the School. Furthermore, there is only one department in UC San Diego's *Graduate School of Marine Sciences*. That department is very broad in

scope and includes fields other than marine sciences. To better reflect the breadth of the academic programming and research enterprise, we propose to rename the Graduate School of Marine Sciences to the *School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences*. The name change will facilitate recognition of all the facets of our academic programs, and better represent both the scope of our educational and research enterprise to the public.

Cc: Stuart Sandin
Chair, Faculty of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences



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December 22, 2021

TO: Margaret Leinen
Dean, School of Marine Sciences

FROM: Stuart Sandin
Chair, Faculty of the Graduate School of Marine Sciences

We appreciate the attention being paid to the concern that the name of the academic program that our faculty populate is imprecise and warrants reconsideration. Currently, our faculty at Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO) operate our academic programming within the *School of Marine Sciences*. We support the proposal of Dean Leinen to request a more academically inclusive and representative name for the school, and we support the proposed name of the *School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences*.

The concern regarding the school's name has been mounting over the past decades, as the breadth of educational programs at SIO has expanded. Our faculty include academic leaders in disciplines including, but not limited to, geosciences, atmospheric sciences, chemistry, and biology. Importantly, the focus of this work extends well beyond the realm of the ocean (as is suggested by our current name of 'marine sciences'), with education and research focused on the depths of the planet to the heights of the atmosphere, and beyond. It is thus clear that the name of our academic program is at best imprecise and at worst misleading.

Our faculty have been provided multiple opportunities to comment upon the proposed naming of the school. There has been discussion of the topic within the Educational Policy Committee of the SIO Faculty as well as more generally within multiple SIO Department and Faculty meetings. The consensus has been that there is timely need to change the name of the School to be more representative of our educational scope. Notably, there has been no single name that has secured unanimous support as the top selection. The reason for the lack of unanimity in the selection is due in large part to the more advisory nature of the votes, providing a large number of options with a goal of soliciting substantive input from the faculty in terms of intended needs for the renaming effort. In all discussions, however, there was consensus that the school name should include reference to three important pillars of the SIO academic strength – earth sciences, atmospheric sciences, and ocean sciences.

The proposed renaming of the school addresses many concerns of our faculty that should improve our efforts of educational recruitment and impact for the decades ahead. The new naming, as proposed, will (i) improve recognition of domain expertise for prospective students, (ii) better represent the diversity of educational programming offered by the SIO Faculty, and (iii) expand opportunities for outreach and fund-raising of our strong and growing educational program.

Thank you for responding to the needs of the SIO Faculty in considering this change to our school's name. The SIO Faculty offer our support of the new name to represent our academic programs, the *School of Earth, Atmospheric, and Ocean Sciences*.