

SEN12D013

Title: *Natural Sciences – change in school name and acronym*
Author: Laura McGonagle, Faculty Manager, Faculty of Sciences
Date: January 2013
Circulation: ET
Senate – 20 February 2013
Agenda: SEN12A002
Version: Final
Status: Open

Issue

To change the school name/acronym applied to Natural Sciences degree scheme, modules, courses and students from Faculty of Science (SCI) to School of Natural Sciences (NAT)

Recommendation

The recipients can be asked to endorse the name change.

Resource Implications

Within the School and Faculty the costs of making this change are relatively minimal. However, there is an impact on the available resources in Corporate Information Systems and other parts of the University to ensure that the changes are processed prior to records being rolled over into the following academic year.

Risk Implications

None

Equality and Diversity

None

Timing of decisions

ET decision to be reported to Senate, approval and papers for which to be received by the Planning Office no later than 12th February 2013

Further Information

Dr Ben Milner, Associate Dean L&T, Faculty of Science, x3339, b.milner@uea.ac.uk
Dr Martin Loftus, Head of Natural Sciences, Faculty of Science, x2539, m.loftus@uea.ac.uk
Mrs Laura McGonagle, Faculty Manager, Faculty of Science, x3296, l.mcgonagle@uea.ac.uk

Background

Natural Sciences is now in its fourth year of delivery, under which some 100+ students are registered. At steady state we expect the Natural Sciences degree schemes to have around 140 registered students, with the opportunity for further growth. The three year and four year

Natural Sciences programs are premium courses attracting students with high tariff (average tariff for 2011/12 is 489), and good progression rates. However, the current name of the school (SCI) arising from the current designation within the Faculty School of Science does not align itself to Natural Sciences and is causing confusion on a number of different fronts.

Discussion

To associate the Natural Sciences programs within a virtual School of Natural Sciences (NAT) is more appropriate and provides greater clarity to distinguish the Natural Sciences programs from the Science with Foundation year program which has a different target audience focused on widening participation. The current confusion exists because Science with Foundation year is abbreviated to SCI FDN causing confusion between the two distinct offerings.

From a Marketing and Admission perspective, and to reflect its uniqueness, the Natural Sciences courses offered are already marketed under "The School of Natural Sciences" (see link <https://intranet.uea.ac.uk/naturalsciences>). This is because prospective students, the calibre of whom are natural very high, would expect to see Natural Sciences with a separate special identify rather than within a generic Faculty School of Science.

In addition to creating the virtual School of Natural Sciences, The Faculty wishes to still retain the existing Faculty School of Science. A discussion is currently taking place looking at the structure and pathways applicable to Science with a Foundation Year (F008), with a view to improving its metrics and the student experience, and it might be that the Faculty of Science School is required for this purpose.

The request made has the full support of the Science Faculty Executive, minute of which is as follows:

- (i) It was agreed by the Executive members present that the acronym for Natural Sciences should change from SCI to NAT to differentiate between the SCI Foundation Year and the School of Natural Sciences.