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MEMORANDUM

September 7, 2007

To: Senate
c/o Lisa Collins, Assistant Registrar, Senate and Curriculum Services

From: David H. Farrar
Provost and Vice President Academic

Re: Change of Name from School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene to School of Environmental Health

Recommendation:

I recommend that Senate approve the change of name from School of Occupational and Environmental Hygiene to **School of Environmental Health, effective September 19, 2007**.

Rationale:

The proposal to change the name is based on the following three main reasons:

1. For the past year the School has been actively working to increase the pool of graduate student applicants to its MSc and PhD programs. This has taken the form of working with the graduate recruitment initiative of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, consultation with its own students and alumni, internal discussions amongst School faculty and outreach sessions with prospective students. A recurring theme in these efforts has been unfamiliarity with the meaning of the term "hygiene" and that this is a barrier to student recruitment. The proposed change in name more accurately reflects the mission and activities of the School while at the same time it resonates with prospective students.

2. The School has evolved as a focal point for collaborative efforts within UBC regarding occupational and environmental health, and is recognised within Canada and internationally for environmental and occupational health research, education, and practice. These collaborative efforts have been recognized for example, by the Michael Smith Foundation for Health Research (MSCHR) through its funding of the Centre for Health and Environment Research that is based at the School and the CIHR-MSFHR-funded Bridge Strategic Training Program that is housed, in part, at the School. In addition, School faculty have played a leading role in the establishment of the BC Environmental and Occupational Health Research Network which is supported by the MSFHR.

3. Most similar programs at other institutions have removed the term "hygiene" from their names. For example at the University of Toronto the similar unit is named the "Gage Environmental and Occupational Health Unit."

The College for Interdisciplinary Studies strongly supports the change in name. The College consulted widely with all units that work in closely related areas or with whom the School has jointly appointed or associate faculty.