

I support the request of the Dept. of Geography to add "Sustainability and Tourism" to the department's name. It is appropriate given what the faculty in the department are engaged with and the times we live in.

Sadu

I wholeheartedly support the name change for the Geography Department to **“Geography, Sustainability, and Tourism Department”** (GST). As an Alternate Representative to the Senate, I regret that I haven’t been able to voice my support for this proposal because of my class schedule conflict this semester. However, I want to go on the record by saying that in my 45+ year professional career focused on the Energy Industry, Sustainability should be elevated to a position it deserves in terms of being an important part of the solution to the threats from Climate Change. CCSU has a history of implementing Sustainability innovation, which will only be rightly emphasized with the new department name.

If there were any questions about the viability to attract more students to this program, I must share a personal example. My Son chose to go the CCSU for his Master’s Degree in Sustainability, when he had other schools he could have attended. The reason was the structure of the program and the qualifications of professors, who live what they teach.

It only makes good business sense to fully leverage your resources via aggressive marketing. I totally agree that the name change builds upon its qualifications that will broaden CCSU’s attraction for more students and expands its regional base.

It is time for CCSU to exert its current leadership under this proposed new banner.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug

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As a longtime member of GESAC (Global Environmental Sustainability Action Coalition), I fully support the name change of the Geography Department to Geography, Sustainability, and Tourism. This change not only is long overdue and reflective of the current offerings, but will attract more students. As coordinator of the CCSU Public History program, and due to the importance of PLACE to public history, I rely heavily on these course offerings and the faculty who teach these courses to train my students in urban planning, environmental sustainability, and heritage tourism. Tourism is also an obvious intersection with public history. I would be able to enlist this name change to recruit interest into MY program, which is interdisciplinary by nature. We already have an interdisciplinary partnership between History and a Geography, Sustainability, and Tourism Department, but the name change would help support the CCSU Public History program by attracting students, and helping CCSU stand out among others due to this sustainability focus.

I have personally played a large role in promoting environmental sustainability as an essential focus of public history practice and my professional activity, research, and publications from the last decade specifically address public history and sustainability. Climate change not only threatens cultural heritage and resources, but preserving buildings is the most impactful form of recycling behind energy transition. Furthermore, public historians have an obligation to both promote historically sustainable practices and to convey the inextricable link between human history and global warming.

On a personal note, I currently have a high school Senior interested in Environmental/ Sustainability Studies (vs Environmental Science). She has been looking at many, many programs across the country that focus on communication and a social science/ humanities approach to supporting climate activism. and ecological resilience. Every campus representative we have spoken to has mentioned that "Sustainability Studies," (or Environmental Studies) is one of the fastest growing majors. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that semantics, not course content, has placed CCSU is far behind other campuses in terms of addressing climate change and increasing student interest in addressing it because of semantics. Even sister school Southern Connecticut State renamed their department years ago. It is critical that we train students to help communicate the science of the climate imperative into advocacy, education, and policy, starting yesterday. This is a no-brainer. I appeal to the Faculty Senate to vote to change the outdated Geography Department name, and allow faculty to reflect and promote their current courses under an appropriate and relevant title.

Thank you for your time,

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