

MEMORANDUM

To: James W. Holsinger, Jr., M.D., Ph.D.
Chancellor

Phyllis Nash, Ed.D.
Associate Vice President for Academic & Student Affairs

From: Emery A. Wilson, M.D.
Dean

Re: Proposed Name Change

Date: January 7, 2003

The faculty in the Department of Ophthalmology has proposed changing the name of the department to the *Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences*. I have attached Dr. Pearson's letter explaining the rationale for this proposed change.

I support the proposed name change.

Enclosure (1)

cc: Charlotte Baker
Jane Serumgard Harrison, Ph.D.
Cathy Owen
P. Andrew Pearson, M.D.
David S. Watt, Ph.D.
Phoebe A. Wellman

EAW:lma

December 26, 2002

Emery A. Wilson, M.D.
Dean, College of Medicine
University of Kentucky

Re: Request for Department Name Change

Dear Dr. Wilson:

The Department of Ophthalmology would like to change its name to the ***Department of Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences***. This change reflects our desire to become a reputed research institution, and will aid in attracting biomedical scientists and academically oriented veterinary ophthalmologists & optometrists. The new name will also assist in bringing under one umbrella the many basic scientists conducting vision-related research currently scattered across various departments on our campus. This will exponentially increase collaborative opportunities, enhancing our joint competitiveness for extramural funding. We also wish to facilitate graduate study in Ophthalmology & Visual Sciences at the Masters' and Doctoral level for students in departments such as Physiology, Anatomy & Neurobiology, Immunology, Toxicology, and others. Nationwide seven (7) other universities have changed their departmental name to Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences.

These enhanced research activities will make us more attracting for center funding from private organizations such as Research to Prevent Blindness and Foundation Fighting Blindness. The addition of "Visual Sciences" conveys to the lay and professional communities that our department is not only a center of clinical excellence but also one with research interests. This is vital in achieving our long-term goal of constructing a freestanding Eye Institute. In sum, we believe the proposed name is in keeping with the strategic goals recommended by the Top 20 Task Force, which include aiming for national prominence, attracting outstanding faculty and students, discovering new knowledge and nurturing diverse thought for the purpose of tackling some of the "Kentucky uglies" such as diabetic retinopathy and hereditary & age-related retinal degeneration.

Your review and approval of this proposal would be appreciated.

Sincerely,

P. Andrew Pearson, M.D.
Chair