March 9, 2001

TO: Senate Curriculum Committee

FM: Joan Gorham
   Associate Dean

RE: Change in Name of Major

Attached is a memo from Mike Yura requesting a change in the name of the Latent Fingerprint Identification major to Forensic and Investigative Science. This program is a major under the Bachelor of Science Forensic Identification (B.S.F.I) degree program and is offered through the Eberly College. The major code for Latent Fingerprint Identification is 1488.

This request has been reviewed and approved as follows:

Clifton P. Bishop, Forensic Identification Curriculum Committee
Date: March 9, 2001

Joan B. Gorham, College Curriculum Committee
Date: March 9, 2001

Joan B. Gorham, Dean of College or School
Date: March 9, 2001

Rosemary R. Haggett, Faculty Senate/Academic Affairs
Date: March 9, 2001

We include with this name change proposal a request that Area of Emphasis codes be created for the LFI (now FIS) AOE:s: Forensic Chemistry, Forensic Toxicology, Forensic Biology, and Forensic Examiner. The AOE:s themselves were approved as a part of the FI program proposal and thus have already received Senate approval; however, the AOE codes have not been created. Carol Kayla has indicated that it would be good timing to request addition of the AOE codes at the same time as she creates the new major code for FIS.

ARC Only:
Date Received: _______________________
Date Entered: _____________________
Dear Dr. Nellis:

I am writing to you to formally request that the name of the Latent Fingerprint major be changed to the Forensic and Investigative Science major. Since the Latent Fingerprint Program is under the College of Arts and Sciences, I am directing this request to you and the College Curriculum Committee. This change has been approved by the curriculum/admission committee of the Forensic Identification Program. This committee consists of representatives from the Office of the Provost, The Eberly College of Arts and Sciences, and The College of Engineering and Mineral Resources.

Also, the proposed name captures the areas of emphasis within the current Latent Fingerprint Identification major but is more specific in capturing the broader skill sense within the Forensic Examiner area, Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and Toxicology. This particular designation also is similar to the division within the National Institute of Justice that encompasses some of our current program thrusts such as Forensic Biology, Forensic Examiner, and Crime Scene Examiner. Their division is known as the Division of Investigative and Forensic Science. It is therefore, necessary to the change the name of the major from Latent Fingerprint to Forensic and Investigative Science and is not only consistent with the academic thrust of the program, but is indicative of its science orientation and focus on the forensic and investigative coursework.

When the original name of the major was submitted, we were assisted by the FBI’s Latent Fingerprint Section to develop a curriculum that closely paralleled this disciplines academic needs. Later, we worked with Dr. Donald Kerr, director of the FBI’s Crime Lab, and Dr. Dwight Adams, Section Chief for their analytical section to expand our offering to include Forensic Chemistry, Biology, and Toxicology. We expanded our areas of emphasis but never adjusted the name of the major to reflect these expanded offerings.

Currently, the name Latent Fingerprint is too limited to cover the broader forensic curriculum offered within the major. We have entertained other options like Forensic Science, but there are too many complications especially with Marshall’s Masters Program in Forensic Science. It was therefore the recommendation of Drs. Russ Dean and Rosemary Haggett that the term Forensic be used since it is broad enough to encompass the areas of emphasis.
currently in our curriculum and flexible to accommodate future expansion of curriculum to include other forensic related disciplines.

I would greatly appreciate forwarding this request to the appropriate college curriculum representative then to the College Curriculum Committee. I believe it will then be forwarded to the Senate Curriculum Committee for their approval and finally on to the full Senate.

I will be happy to supply any additional information you request related to this matter. Thank you for your assistance in this important matter. We will be eagerly awaiting the disposition of this matter since all publications from the program will be placed on hold to accommodate this important decision.

Yours sincerely,

Michael T. Yura, Ph.D.
Director
Forensic Identification Program