



MEMORANDUM

To: Executive Committee of Faculty Council (February 7, 2018)
Faculty Council (February 27, 2018)

From: Professor Brent Sleep
Chair, Department of Civil Engineering

Date: February 7, 2018

Re: ***Proposal to Change the Name of the Department of Civil Engineering to the Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering***

REPORT CLASSIFICATION

This is a major policy matter that will be considered by the Executive Committee for endorsing and forwarding to Faculty Council for vote as a regular motion (requiring a simple majority of members present and voting to carry).

BACKGROUND

The Department of Civil Engineering proposes to change its name to the “Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering” in order to reflect the offering of two distinct CEAB accredited undergraduate engineering programs, the Civil Engineering and Lassonde Mineral Engineering Programs.

In January 2005, the Division of Mineral Engineering and the Department of Civil Engineering merged, combining their administration and budgets. The merged unit retained the name Department of Civil Engineering. Although the department offers two separate accredited engineering programs, its name is misleading as there is no mention of the mineral focus. It is important to have a department name that is inclusive for all students, alumni and affiliated professors.

This proposed name change will bring consistency with the naming of other departments within the Faculty that offer two separate and distinct engineering programs, such as the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, and The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering. The current Civil Engineering department name excludes Lassonde Mineral Engineering students, alumni and professors from the official branding of the department, and resonates negatively with some members and supporters of this unit.

In the 2012 UTQAP external review of the Department of Civil Engineering, the review team observed that there were concerns regarding the integration of the Lassonde Mineral Engineering program into the department. It was recommended that a task force be struck to identify the cause of the integration issues and recommend solutions. The task force, struck in October 2012, reported that students, alumni and faculty associated with the Lassonde Mineral Engineering program felt alienated and uncertain of their status in the department. They recommended that a change in the name of the department to include Mineral Engineering be considered, consistent with the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, and The Edward S. Rogers Sr. Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The department consulted with faculty members on the proposed name change at 2017 meetings held in conjunction with its 2018 UTQAP review. Subsequently, at a January 18, 2018 departmental Council meeting attended by undergraduate and graduate student representatives and a majority of faculty members in the department, there was strong support for this name change. In addition to recognizing the presence of the Lassonde Mineral Engineering program in the department, the name change will bring consistency with the branding of the department on social media platforms where “civmin” is used as the identifiable name (i.e., CIVMIN Connect, @civmin).

The department also consulted with the Dean’s Offices in the Faculty of Arts & Science, the University of Toronto, Mississauga and the University of Toronto, Scarborough.

This name change will not affect the names of the undergraduate or graduate degrees currently offered by the department, nor on the accreditation of the undergraduate Civil Engineering and Lassonde Mineral Engineering programs. Where relevant, the department will clearly indicate on its website that the graduate degrees offered by the department are the MEng, MEng CEM, MASc in Civil Engineering and PhD in Civil Engineering. There are no financial implications for this name change.

MOTION

Subject to approval by the Academic Board and confirmation by the Executive Committee of Governing Council

THAT the name of the Faculty of Applied Science and Engineering’s *Department of Civil Engineering* be changed to *Department of Civil and Mineral Engineering* effective immediately upon approval.