



The Department of Food Science  
and Technology

College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences  
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August 25, 2008

Dr. Elliot E. Slotnick  
Associate Dean  
Graduate School  
The Ohio State University  
250 and 247 University Hall  
230 N. Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210-1366

Dear Dr. Slotnick:

The purpose of this letter is to request the Graduate School to approve a name change for our M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs from *Food Science and Nutrition* to *Food Science and Technology*. A brief history of the department and the rationale and justification for the proposed name change are outlined below.

The Department of Food Science and Technology is part of the College of Food Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences (FAES). The department houses 17 regular graduate faculty members and about 80 graduate students enrolled in M.S. and Ph.D. degree programs. Ohio State University is the only university in the state of Ohio to offer a program in Food Science and Technology. Department faculty conduct research to improve food safety and quality, develop functional foods for health, and evaluate new processing technologies. The department has an excellent placement record for students in the food and allied industries, governmental organizations and academia. The primary scientific/professional society for food scientists and food technologists is the Institute of Food Technologists, with about 18,000 members worldwide.

### **Brief history**

The origin of department can be traced back to 1896 when the OSU Board of Trustees formed the Department of Dairy Science modeled after a successful dairy school in Wisconsin. The Department of Dairy Technology was merged with the Institute of Nutrition to form the Department of Food Science and Nutrition in 1971. In 1989, some faculty from the Department of Horticulture joined the Department of Food Science and Nutrition leading to an additional research and educational focus in processing technologies. Thus, the name of the department

was changed again in 1990 to the Department of Food Science and Technology. Although the name of the department was changed in 1990 to reflect the focus and expertise of the faculty and the educational programs offered, the name of the graduate degrees have never been revised.

Faculty with dedicated nutrition interests remained in the department for the next 14 years, although their numbers began to decrease as their expertise was not replaced upon retirement or resignation. At ~~about~~ the same time, programs in the Department of Human Nutrition in the College of Human Ecology were growing. The last remaining dedicated nutritional science faculty member moved to the Department of Human Nutrition, now in the College of Education and Human Ecology, in 2004.

The Ohio State University Nutrition Ph.D. Program (OSUN) was established in 1996 as a cooperative effort between four colleges: Education and Human Ecology; Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; Medicine; and Veterinary Medicine. This interdisciplinary program continues to grow and currently about 33 OSU graduate faculty members are associated with this program, including 3 faculty members from the Department of Food Science and Technology. Thus, students with a strong interest in nutrition can be advised by faculty in the Department of Food Science and Technology and receive their Ph.D. degrees through the OSUN program. M.S. students with a strong interest in nutrition can obtain a M.S. degree in Human Ecology with a specialization in Human Nutrition through the Department of Human Nutrition.

### **Proposed name change**

The 2008 Doctoral Program Assessment and Plan report authored by Graduate School Dean Patrick S. Osmer classified our doctoral program as one of seventeen strong programs within the university. These doctoral programs “are noted for their strength and potential to enhance the reputation of the university.” The report further recognized the “connections among the Department of Food Science and Technology, the doctoral program in Food Science and Nutrition and the interdisciplinary OSU Nutrition doctoral program. These programs appear under different names locally (within the college) and officially (within the Graduate School). Specifically, the department lists the doctoral program as simply “Food Science” and the interdisciplinary Ph.D. as “Nutrition.” There is a welcome clarity to these names; this may be the time to make these local practices official.”

This recommendation to change the name of our graduate degrees to eliminate confusion and reflect program focus was subsequently discussed by the FST Graduate Studies Committee in May 2008. The Graduate Studies Committee accepted the recommendation and suggested the M.S. and Ph.D. graduate degree programs be renamed *Food Science and Technology* based on current faculty focus and expertise. The Graduate Studies Committee recommendation was brought before the faculty on June 6 for discussion and vote. The faculty voted unanimously to change the name of the graduate degree programs from *Food Science and Nutrition* to *Food Science and Technology*.

Statements of concurrence from Dr. Mark Failla (Director of OSUN and Associate Dean of Research in the College of Education and Human Ecology), Dr. Jeff Firkens (Incoming Director

of OSUN and Professor in Animal Science), Dr. Earl Harrison (Professor and Chair of the Department of Human Nutrition), and Dr. Thomas Bean (Professor and Chair of the Department of Food, Agricultural and Biological Engineering) are attached.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

Denise M. Smith  
Professor and Chair, Food Science and Technology

V.M. Balasubramaniam  
Associate Professor and Interim Chair, FST Graduate Studies Committee

The College of Food, Agricultural and Environmental Sciences concurs with above name change for the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_