

College of Natural Resources and Sciences

October 2, 2025

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jenn Capps, Provost

FROM: Eric M. Riggs, Dean 

SUBJECT: Department of Mathematics renaming request

This memo is to communicate our formal request to rename the Department of Mathematics to the Department of Mathematics and Data Science. This proposed change is supported by the College of Natural Resources and Sciences.

On August 20, 2025, the Mathematics faculty voted to change its name, and the department chair communicated this vote and their rationale in a formal memo. The assembled faculty agreed that new departmental name will be Mathematics and Data Science. I concur with this recommendation and have included their rationale below, with which I also agree.

This name change reflects the existing nature of our department's objectives and curriculum following Cal Poly Humboldt's polytechnic transformation. Our department now houses two degree programs: our established Mathematics B.A. and our new Data Science B.S. The proposed name accurately describes the dual nature of our current curriculum offerings. The updated name will also enhance our ability to attract prospective students by clearly communicating our comprehensive offerings in both traditional mathematics and the rapidly growing field of data science. This alignment with current academic and industry trends will broaden our appeal to students seeking education in high-demand STEM fields.

The department chair and faculty noted that in their analysis, nothing in this name change affects other departments or their programs.

I am in favor of this name change taking place as soon as reasonably and possibly effective given the realities of catalog and admissions deadlines and all other university approvals and Senate ratification.