

M e m o r a n d u m

To: University Senate  
From: Eric C. Bielefeld, Chair, Council on Academic Affairs  
Subject: Proposal to Change the Name of the Spectroscopy Institute  
Date: February 21, 2019

A PROPOSAL FROM THE COUNCIL ON ACADEMIC AFFAIRS TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE SPECTROSCOPY INSTITUTE TO THE INSTITUTE FOR OPTICAL SCIENCES

Whereas in its early years, following its establishment in 1998, the Spectroscopy Institute served its mission and addressed its goals to: solidify the University as a world-wide center of molecular spectroscopy; build upon our emerging strength in ultrafast technology; and bring together the appliers of those technologies with the creators of the underlying sciences; and

Whereas more recently, the Institute, reflecting shifts and advancements in the frontiers of interdisciplinary optical science, is casting a broader net than in the past and will maintain the ability to react to emerging areas; and accordingly has developed a new broader mission statement;

Whereas the proposal has the support of the leadership of the Institute and the Office of Research; and concurrence was sought from the College of Optometry; and

Whereas the proposal was reviewed and approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on January 23, 2019;

Therefore be it resolved that the University Senate approve the proposal to change the name of the Spectroscopy Institute to the Institute for Optical Sciences.

**From:** [Smith, Randy](#)  
**To:** [Weisenberger, Jan](#); [DiMauro, Louis](#)  
**Cc:** [Bielefeld, Eric](#); [Smith, Randy](#); [Reed, Katie](#); [Stone, Morley O.](#); [Moses, Randy](#); [Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M.](#); [Walline, Jeffrey](#); [Zadnik, Karla](#); [Harris, Brad](#); [Givens, Ben](#); [Daly, Marymegan](#); [Hogan, Michael](#); [Schweikhart, Sharon](#); [Olesik, Susan](#); [McPheron, Bruce A.](#)  
**Subject:** Institute Name Change  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 23, 2019 4:47:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)

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Jan and Lou:

The proposal to change the name of the Spectroscopy Institute to the Institute for Optical Sciences was approved by the Council on Academic Affairs at its meeting on January 23, 2019. Thank you for attending the meeting to respond to questions/comments.

The proposal is being sent to the University Senate with a request that it be included on the agenda of the February 21, 2019 Senate meeting. The Chair of the Council, Professor Eric Bielefeld will present the proposal but it is important that one or both of you attends the meeting to respond to detailed questions should they arise. I will provide you with more detailed information when I have it.

Please keep a copy of this message for your file on the proposal and I will do the same for the file in the Office of Academic Affairs.

If you have any questions, please contact the Professor Bielefeld (.6) or me.

Randy



**W. Randy Smith, Ph.D.**

Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Office of Academic Affairs

203 Bricker Hall, 190 North Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210

614-292-5881 Office

[smith.70@osu.edu](mailto:smith.70@osu.edu)

As Director of the Spectroscopy Institute, I am making a formal request for a renaming of the existing “Spectroscopy Institute” to “The Institute for Optical Sciences”, aka *iOS*. The newly developed mission statement is:

*The Institute for Optical Science (iOS) goals are the creation of an OSU community of multidisciplinary researchers in the optical sciences, coordinate on-campus and regional focus groups and centers that eliminate traditional academic boundaries at the research level and identifies strengths in interdisciplinary photon science research.*

The change in name is to reflect the broader mission statement for the OSU community and the changing scientific landscape. Historically, President Kirwan and the Board of Trustees established the “Spectroscopy Institute (SI)” in 1998. The Institute was an interdisciplinary venture focused on capitalizing and coordinating OSU excellence in spectroscopy. The founding Director was Prof. Terry Miller, Ohio Eminent Scholar and Professor of Chemistry. The specific goals of the SI was (1) solidify OSU as the world-wide center of molecular spectroscopy, (2) build upon OSU emerging strength in ultrafast technology and (3) bring together the appliers of these technologies with the creators of the underlying sciences.

The SI effectively served its mission in the early years of its inception by bringing ties between Chemistry and Mechanical Engineering but shifts and advancements in the frontiers of interdisciplinary optical science lessened the impact of the Institute on campus and as an external flagship for OSU. In short, the Spectroscopy Institute became less effective although interdisciplinary activities in optics and photonics increased locally and nationally. The rebranded “Spectroscopy Institute” primary aim is to reorganize, identify and facilitate OSU faculty to capitalize on national interdisciplinary initiatives in the optical sciences. The new Institute for Optical Sciences casts a broader net than in the past and will maintain sufficient fluidity to react to emerging areas.

Spectroscopic applications remains a major interest throughout the OSU campus and represented by the Institute for Optical Sciences. However, in the last decade new faculty in the Arts & Sciences College (ASC) and the College of Engineering (CE) have pushed several emerging areas in the optical sciences. Several examples include quantum information science, ultrafast spectroscopy, high intensity science, ultrafast x-ray science and photonics. We believe that there is sufficient evidence that federal investments will grow over the next decade and the *iOS* can prepare and leverage the strengths of OSU faculty for capitalizing on these initiatives.

Under the new Director, Louis DiMauro, the Institute has already made efforts along these lines. The Institute is establishing an interdisciplinary seminar series in the optical and quantum information sciences. A committee composed of faculty in ASC and EC will identify the speakers, mainly OSU faculty. The 2018/2019 seminar committee is Dan Gauthier (Physics), Robert Baker (Chemistry) and Ron Reano (ECE). In July 2018, the Institute hosted a 2-day workshop between faculty at OSU, U Michigan and Denison University. The purpose was to build connections between these institutions and identify future opportunities. The *iOS* will continue to develop these connections via workshops with other regional laboratories/universities, e.g. AFRL-Dayton. Finally, a webpage is under development for disseminating information (<https://spectroscopy.osu.edu/>).

The rebranding of the Institute’s name is a clear and consistent reflection of these efforts for the future. Upon approval of the name change, the Institute’s webpage will be altered and a logo developed. Thus, I kindly request approval of the Institute for Optical Sciences name change be granted in a timely matter.

**From:** [Harris, Brad](#)  
**To:** [Reed, Katie](#)  
**Subject:** FW: question about a research center  
**Date:** Monday, January 14, 2019 1:03:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)

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FYI



**Brad A. Harris**  
Chief of Staff  
Office of Research  
208 Bricker Hall, 190 North Oval Mall  
Columbus, OH 43210  
614-688-2576 Phone  
[harris.54@osu.edu](mailto:harris.54@osu.edu)

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**From:** Weisenberger, Jan <[weisenberger.21@osu.edu](mailto:weisenberger.21@osu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Monday, January 14, 2019 11:46 AM  
**To:** Smith, Randy <[smith.70@osu.edu](mailto:smith.70@osu.edu)>; Bielefeld, Eric <[bielefeld.6@osu.edu](mailto:bielefeld.6@osu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Harris, Brad <[harris.54@osu.edu](mailto:harris.54@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** FW: question about a research center

Randy and Eric,

See email from Jeff Walline of Optometry below, indicating that they do not object to a name change for the Spectroscopy Institute to the Institute for Optical Sciences.

Thanks,  
Jan

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**From:** Walline, Jeffrey <[walline.1@osu.edu](mailto:walline.1@osu.edu)>  
**Sent:** Saturday, January 12, 2019 3:06 PM  
**To:** Weisenberger, Jan <[weisenberger.21@osu.edu](mailto:weisenberger.21@osu.edu)>  
**Cc:** Zadnik, Karla <[zadnik.4@osu.edu](mailto:zadnik.4@osu.edu)>  
**Subject:** RE: question about a research center

Hi Jan-

I spoke with faculty in the College of Optometry regarding the proposed name change of the Spectroscopy Institute to the Institute of Optical Sciences. While some discomfort was expressed, not one faculty member outright objected to the proposed name change.

The College of Optometry wishes the Institute of Optical Sciences the best, and thanks CAA for

considering our opinion in the matter.

*Jeff Walline*



**Jeffrey J. Walline, OD PhD**

Associate Dean for Research

338 West Tenth Avenue

Columbus, OH 43210-1240

Office: 614-247-6840

Mobile: 614-882-1001

Email: [walline.1@osu.edu](mailto:walline.1@osu.edu)

Skype: jeffrey.walline

Hi Karla,

The Spectroscopy Institute, headed by Lou DiMauro in Physics, has submitted a request to CAA to change the name of the institute. The new proposed name is the Institute of Optical Sciences, consistent with the desire to expand the focus of the center to encompass photon-based research across a broader landscape. Most of the work is high-energy lasers.

CAA has asked whether there would be any objection from the College of Optometry to this name change. Do you see any issues here?

Thanks,  
Jan

**Janet M. Weisenberger, PhD**

Senior Associate Vice President for Research

**The Ohio State University**

Office of Research

208 Bricker Hall, 190 N. Oval Mall, Columbus, OH 43210

614-247-4764 Office

[weisenberger.21@osu.edu](mailto:weisenberger.21@osu.edu) [research.osu.edu](http://research.osu.edu)