Section I: Request

The department of College Success Studies (CSS) at Utah Valley University (UVU) is requesting a name change to Student Leadership and Success Studies. The department has made some necessary and definitive changes over the years in order to meet the changing needs of the university and its students. The evolution in the type and number of students attending the university has caused a surge in the growth of the Student Leadership courses and added a significant new dimension to the programs offered. One of the critical changes has been the addition of a comprehensive student peer mentoring program called UV Mentors. The purpose of the program is to train, select and develop student peer mentors for the CLSS 1000 course, University Student Success. The addition of this mentoring program has included the development of innovative curriculum (CLSS 2200, 2300 and 240R), and the writing and publishing of a nationally recognized and used textbook authored by three UVU faculty (2007; Sanft, Jensen, & McMurray Peer Mentor Companion; Houghton-Mifflin). The need to cultivate student leaders has increased. The peer mentoring program was originally designed to train student peer mentors for CLSS 1000, which focuses on developing strong successful students; now the program is also used to train and develop strong student leaders across the university.

Section II: Need

Over the last three years, the success of UV Mentors in assisting first year students for better levels of academic success has been noticed by various departments at UVU. As a result, these departments have approached CSS to help them build and deliver the academic component of their student leadership and peer mentor programs. Some of these units include the Student Affairs departments of Prospective Student Services, the Center for the Advancement of Leadership, student government-ASUVU, Athletics, the Multicultural Center, and Clubs and Organizations. In addition to the student leadership programing that CSS has been helping to design and deliver, the department has also been approached by the academic departments of Developmental Math, Biology, and the International Center for assistance in the development of new student peer mentoring programs. In order to respond to these needs, CSS assigned a faculty member to act as the director of Student Leadership Programs. It is the responsibility of that faculty to help manage and direct the growth of the various student leadership programs requiring academic course support from CSS. This new initiative has allowed the department to serve the institution in a manner that is compatible with UVU’s programming needs. The name Student Leadership and Success Studies more accurately reflects the current academic scope of the department, and the variety of academic and student affairs projects and programming the department has been asked to support.

Section III: Institutional Impact

Enrollments may go up slightly with the proposed name change because students will be able to identify the academic department in which the student leadership courses are housed. No new faculty, staff, equipment or physical facilities will be required.

The proposed change will not affect existing administrative structures.

Section IV: Finances

There will be a onetime cost associated with changing the department’s stationary, which will be paid out of department discretionary funds.
$ 660 Change Business Cards
$ 200 Change Stationary
$ 14 to change names on Faculty and Staff doors
$ 0 for website name change

Total $ 874