TRUSTEES RENAME TWO DEPARTMENTS, ACT ON OTHER MATTERS

COLUMBUS -- Two Ohio State University academic units will be known by new names effective July 1 because of action by the Board of Trustees Friday (4/6).

The Department of Botany will be renamed the Department of Plant Biology. The Division of Agricultural Mechanics Technologies is changing to the Division of Engineering Technologies.

Allen Zimmerman, chairperson of the Division of Agricultural Mechanics Technologies at the Agricultural Technical Institute in Wooster, said the new name of Engineering Technologies removes the word "mechanics" which has carried a negative connotation and has been confused with vocational programs.

Zimmerman said that the programs within the division, such as construction, fluid power, and power and equipment technology, are known as engineering technologies at other technical colleges.

"We've found there are some niches that are ag related that are not being done elsewhere in the state. We're attempting to do those," he said.

For example, he said, all agriculture construction is light frame, but only a small part of light frame construction is agriculture. In addition, fluid power is important in agriculture and in the industrial world. "Nobody else in the state has a program in that area," he said.