

**Requesting Faculty Senate Approval for
Renaming the “Chemical Engineering” Department as “Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering”**

The Department of Chemical Engineering is seeking Senate approval for renaming itself the “Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering”. There are several reasons for the name change. First, this name better reflects the increasingly important role of bio-related topics in the expanding field of chemical engineering. The new name more accurately represents the department’s strategic plan, which includes an increased emphasis on biomolecular-related research and teaching. A number of chemical engineering faculty members are currently involved in biomolecular-related research and the department offers an undergraduate program concentration in this area, which broadens employment prospects for our students. Second, the proposed name would enhance our ability to attract broader range of highly motivated undergraduate and graduate students, and also enhance our ability to hire outstanding faculty in this area. The newly formed “biomolecular engineering research cluster” within the Case School of Engineering would also benefit from association with a department with a stated focus in the area. Further, the new name places us among a dynamic and forward-thinking group of chemical engineering departments that have recently renamed themselves and now include a bio-related term in their name.

Including a clearly-stated biomolecular emphasis in the name of the Chemical Engineering Department at CWRU would facilitate enhanced collaborations in research and educational programs with world-renowned bio-related programs at the CWRU Medical School, University Hospitals, and the Cleveland Clinic. In addition, we have an outstanding Biomedical Engineering department at the Case School of Engineering, performing cutting-edge research in biomedical device and health-related topics, which we can complement by adding the chemical perspective. The department intends to focus on areas of expanding demand such as bio-based chemicals and biofuels, pharmaceuticals discovery and manufacturing, and metabolic engineering. Enhancing these areas will complement and strengthen related research and teaching programs in CSE and CWRU as a whole. The proposed name change will affect only the department name and not the degree name.

The faculty of the Chemical Engineering Department voted unanimously on September 11, 2013 in favor of the resolution:

Whereas biology-related topics are becoming increasingly important within the chemical engineering discipline, with increased emphasis and opportunities for research and educational programs, and employment prospects for our students, and

Whereas the faculty of the Chemical Engineering Department has determined that bio-related research and teaching should be designated as a major focus area for the chemical engineering department, and

Whereas the name “Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering” is likely to drive an increase in the number and quality of undergraduate students, graduate students, and help us attract and retain faculty in this area, and

Whereas there are major prospects for collaborative research and teaching in the topic of biomolecular engineering at CWRU, including the Biomedical Engineering Department at CSE, The Biochemistry and Biology departments, the CWRU Medical School, University Hospitals and Cleveland Clinic Foundation,

We resolve to rename the “Department of Chemical Engineering” at CWRU as the “Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering”.

This resolution was also brought to a faculty-wide vote at the Fall 2013 meeting of the Case School of Engineering on Nov. 14, 2013, and passed unanimously. Prof. Jeffrey Duerk, Dean of Case School of Engineering, supports the renaming of the department.

We seek Faculty Senate approval for renaming the department by action on the motion:

Motion: To approve the request to rename the “Department of Chemical Engineering” as the “Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering”.