December 12, 2001

Susan A. Lamb, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Lamb:

Enclosed are copies of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to rename the Department of Chemical Engineering to Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

This proposal has been approved by the LAS Committee on Courses and Curricula, Academic Affairs Committee, Executive Committee and the Faculty of the College, it now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

Keith A. Marshall  
Assistant Provost

KAM/drm

c:  C. Livingstone
October 31, 2001

Keith Marshall
Assistant Provost
Swanlund Administration Building
MC-304

Dear Keith:

The Committee on Courses and Curricula, Academic Affairs Committee, Executive Committee and the Faculty of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences have voted to approve the following proposal:

Proposal to rename the Department of Chemical Engineering to Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

This proposal is now ready for review by the Senate Educational Policy Committee for proposed implementation August 2002.

Sincerely,

Ann M. Mester
Assistant Dean

C: Professor Charles Zukoski
Professor Thomas Rauchfuss
Dean Jesse Delia
Proposal to Rename the Department of Chemical Engineering

SPONSOR: Charles F. Zukoski, Head, Department of Chemical Engineering
Phone: 244-9214
e-mail: czkoski@uiuc.edu

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: The Department of Chemical of Engineering proposes to change the Department’s name to the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. This proposal enjoys unanimous faculty support. The new name reflects changes within the discipline of chemical engineering, and the evolution of the educational and research program within the Department. The name change generates visibility for these shifts and is necessary for the Department to attract students, faculty, and support from funding agencies.

JUSTIFICATION: Historically, chemical engineering has addressed the processing and manufacturing of materials, products and energy. Chemical engineers accomplish this through understanding of chemical bonding, reaction kinetics, thermodynamics, and transport phenomena. Chemical engineers are historically associated with commercialization of scientific advances generated within chemistry. Chemical engineers now play a similar role in commercializing advances developed within the biological sciences. The change in the Department’s name reflects the influence the biosciences are having on the ability of chemical engineers to impact areas of social need.

In the next several decades, the profession of chemical engineering will focus on several emerging areas, including health-related biotechnology; creation of a sustainable chemical economy; generation, conservation, and the environmental impact of energy; product formulation; and semiconductor processing. Each of these areas has a heavy molecular focus, and many have a biomolecular basis. In response to advances in the biological sciences, The American Institute of Chemical Engineers is reorganizing its national meeting programming to better incorporate the advances made in biological technologies and the needs for chemical engineers to participate in these technological advances.

In Chemical Engineering the undergraduate degree remains the first professional degree, and ongoing changes in employment patterns reflect increased biomolecular research and development. Fifteen years ago, 80% of the graduates of the Department were employed by the petrochemical and chemical industries. Over the past five years, the employment of graduating seniors by this sector has dropped to 27%, while industrial sectors involving biomolecular engineering now employ 32% of graduating students. Growth of employment in the pharmaceutical and food sectors is especially strong. Additional evidence for the changing educational role played by the Department is reflected in the Department’s new ChE/FS 5 year MS program with the Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition. In terms of research, 8 of our 14 faculty currently have all or important segments of their research programs in biomolecular engineering. Areas of current strength include cell, tissue and metabolic engineering; microanalytical systems and micro-reactors for biological applications; analytical and computational tools; creation of new drug and gene delivery systems; and pharmaceutical engineering.

The Department of Chemical Engineering is playing a key role in building campus strength in biomolecular engineering. We are supportive of the creation of a department of bioengineering and associated curricula within the College of Engineering that are complementary to the buildup of molecular bioengineering in our department. We are in the process of exploring a biomolecular engineering degree
and/or biomolecular options under our approved degrees, and are prepared to work cooperatively with the College of Engineering to develop its bioengineering programs.

Changing the Department's name to Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering reflects the strengths and commitments the Department and Campus have made in the area of biomolecular engineering. These commitments are deep and based on faculty careers that have a lifetime of at least 30 years. Thus, the name change is being made in response to a fundamental shift to the Department's education and research program.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: The name change alone does not result in increased requirements for additional staff and dollars, or internal reallocation. We anticipate that the number of students enrolling in the Department's program will grow modestly as a result of the name change.

CLEARANCES:

Department/Unit Head

[Signature]

Date

School Approval (if applicable)

[Signature]

April 24, 2001

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Date

Office of the Provost

Date

STATEMENT FOR THE BULLETIN: The Department of Chemical Engineering proposes to change the Department's name to the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

EFFECTIVE DATE: August 2002
April 6, 2001

On the proposition that:

The name of the Department should be changed from the Department of Chemical Engineering to the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

The faculty of the Department of Chemical Engineering vote as recorded below:

Richard C. Alkire  Yes  No
Richard D. Braatz  Yes  No
Vinay K. Gepa  Yes  No
William S. Hannack  Yes  No
Jonathan J. Higdon  Yes  No
Paul J. A. Kenis  Yes  No
Deborah E. Leckband  Yes  No

Richard I. Masel  Yes  No
Anthony J. McHugh  Yes  No
Daniel W. Pack  Yes  No
Nikoleas V. Sahinidis  Yes  No
Edmund G. Seebauer  Yes  No
Huijun Zhao  Yes  No
Charles F. Zukoski  Yes  No
April 25, 2001

Dr. Charles F. Zukoski, Head
Dept. of Chemical Engineering
114 RAL

Dear Chip,

I understand that your department has proposed changing its name to Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. Your proposal has been discussed by the Executive Committee of the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology. All of us applaud this recognition of the importance of biology in your discipline and we fully support your proposed name change.

Sincerely,

Charles G. Miller
Director

CGM:cs
September 10, 2001

Professor C. F. Zukoski, Head
Department of Chemical Engineering
114 Roger Adams Laboratory
MC – 712

Dear Chip:

I write to affirm my full and enthusiastic support for the proposal to change the name of the Department of Chemical Engineering to the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering. The name change reflects the continued evolution of chemical engineering. The proposed name better reflects the current intellectual and human content of the department, and more clearly reflects the future direction of the department. The change is consistent with national trends.

I view the proposed name and future directions of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering to be fully consistent with and complementary to our efforts to create a Department of Bioengineering within the College of Engineering. The greater emphasis on biomolecular engineering in your department will strengthen the Department of Bioengineering. I do not envision overlap – to the contrary, I believe that by emphasizing biomolecular issues in your department, it will free the faculty in Bioengineering to pursue other areas of inquiry, such as imaging, tissue engineering, and bioinformatics. I have no doubt that there will be significant and complementary interdisciplinary courses and projects between the Bioengineering Department and the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.

I wish you every success with the name change and associated evolution of emphasis. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of help.

Sincerely,

David E. Daniel
Dean

DED:ss

cc: Dean J. G. Delia
   Executive Committee
   Provost R. H. Herman