

Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate

MEMO

To: The UVM Faculty Senate
From: Curricular Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate, Laura Almstead, Chair
Date: January 14, 2021
Re: Approval of a request by the Graduate College to change the name of the PhD in Bioengineering to the PhD in Biomedical Engineering

On January 14, 2021, the Curricular Affairs Committee approved the actions recommended in the following memo.

The Curricular Affairs Committee approved a proposal from the Graduate College to change the name of the PhD in Bioengineering to the PhD in Biomedical Engineering. The name change request is supported by program faculty, Director of the PhD in Bioengineering program Jason Bates, the Deans of both the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) and the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS), Graduate College Dean Cindy Forehand, and the Graduate College Executive Committee.

The PhD in Bioengineering (PhDBIOE) is a cross-college interdisciplinary graduate program with participating faculty in the Larner College of Medicine (LCOM) and the College of Engineering and Mathematical Sciences (CEMS). It reports directly to the Graduate College but has an administrative home in the Department of Electrical and Biomedical Engineering in CEMS. Subsequent to the approval of the PhDBIOE in 2011, a BS in Biomedical Engineering (BSBME) was approved in 2015 and a MS in Biomedical Engineering (MSBME) in 2017. Additionally, the CEMS Department of Electrical Engineering was changed to the Department of Electrical and Biomedical Engineering in 2016. When the PhDBIOE was established, the proposers felt that it would be broader than biomedical approaches and hence chose the Bioengineering name. However, the addition of the BS and MS in Biomedical Engineering along with growing numbers of faculty collaborations in biomedical engineering, has changed the program focus to biomedical engineering. Changing the name of the PhDBIOE to the PhDBME will align it with the names of the bachelor's and master's degrees, and better reflect the interests of the faculty in the program.

Students currently enrolled in the PhDBIOE will be given the opportunity to graduate with either a PhDBIOE or PhDBME. Students entering the program after the name change is complete in University records will only be able to graduate with the new name (PhDBME).

The name change request is accompanied by a request to change the Banner code for the PhD from BE to BIOM. Courses in the program will also be changed from BIOE prefixes to BME, which is the same prefix used by courses in the bachelor's and master's level Biomedical Engineering programs.