

**UNIVERSITY COUNCIL
ACADEMIC PROGRAMS COMMITTEE
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

PRESENTED BY: Len Proctor, Chair, Academic Programs Committee of Council

DATE OF MEETING: November 18, 2010

SUBJECT: College of Engineering: change of degree name

DECISION REQUESTED:

It is recommended:

That Council approve the name change for the degree of “Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering” to “Bachelor of Science in Engineering in Biological Engineering”, effective for the 2011-12 academic year.

SUMMARY:

At its October 27 meeting, the Academic Programs Committee reviewed the attached request to change the name of the programs in Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering to “Biological Engineering”. This request requires a change to the name of the degree because in the College of Engineering, each Bachelor of Science in Engineering program awards a separate degree.

This name change will be implemented for the 2011-12 academic year starting with the students entering their second year. These students will begin graduating with this degree at the Spring 2014 Convocation.

ATTACHMENTS:

Request for Change of Name

Memo from College of Agriculture & Bioresources



Office of the University Secretary

Request for Change of Name

This Request form and attachments will be the basis for decision-making about this change.

Submitted by: Dr. Ernie Barber, P.Eng., P.Ag.

Date: October 15, 2010

College: Engineering

College approval date: October 6, 2010

Proposed effective date of the change: For the 2011-12 academic year

1. Proposed change of name

| | From: | To: |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| College | | |
| Department | | |
| Program name | Agricultural & Bioresource Engineering | Biological Engineering |
| Degree name | Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering | Biological Engineering |
| Name of Field of Specialization (major, minor, concentration, etc) | Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering | Biological Engineering |
| Course label (alphabetic) | ABE | BLE |
| Building | | |
| Street | | |
| Other | | |

2. Documentation

Rationale

There has been a movement within North America to rename Agricultural Engineering programs to the broader, and more appropriate title, Biological Engineering. Biological Engineering applies engineering principles and design to enhance and sustain the use of biological resources. This not only includes the complete agricultural sector, but also includes more general biomaterial processing (extraction of pharmaceuticals, textiles from biomaterial, etc.). Furthermore, the Canadian society to which engineers in the current Agricultural & Bioresource Engineering program register after graduation is the Canadian Society for Bioengineering. The proposed name change better aligns the program's name with the technical society and similar programs across North America. Furthermore, Biological Engineering better reflects the breadth of content and themes of the current program.

This is only a name change. It is not a change in the content of the program content.

Impact of the change

1. Impact on Students: Students will graduate with a Field of Specialization descriptor (or discipline name) that better reflects the content of the program. The term "Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering" has been perceived to be limited to only the agricultural sector. It is believed that this name change will help graduates of the program to better market themselves outside of the agricultural sector.
2. Impact on Faculty: None.
3. Impact on Staff: None.
4. Impact on Alumni: Although a survey has not been conducted, there is a risk that alumni of the Agricultural Engineering or the Agricultural & Bioresource Engineering programs may not identify with the renamed program. This may have negative consequences on Advancement plans, but it is felt that the benefit to current and future students will outweigh the possible impact on the alumni.
5. Effect on Other Programs, Departments, Colleges, Centres: A renamed program may be able to attract more of the College's second year students, decreasing the enrolment in the other departments. As many of the other departments are at, or above, capacity, this is not a worry within the college. Renaming the program to Biological Engineering better aligns the program name with its new department, the Department of Chemical and Biological Engineering.
6. Impact on University Wide Systems: As outlined in the Consultation section below, initial discussions have occurred with appropriate university personnel to identify timelines.
7. External Impact: The Canadian Engineering Accreditation Board (CEAB) last accredited the Agricultural & Bioresource Engineering program in 2008. This name change constitutes a significant change, requiring a review by the CEAB. The CEAB has been contacted, and because the program itself is not being changed, the same documents used for the 2008 accreditation will be sent to a reviewer to ensure that the content of the program aligns itself with the new name. Since this name change has been done for similar programs within Canada without accreditation problems, no problems with accreditation of the renamed program are anticipated.

Please attach any statements or opinions received about this change.

Costs - The only direct cost would be for the printing of promotional materials.

Consultation

The Department of Agricultural Engineering completed an update of the Agricultural Engineering Program in 1992. At this time a new department and program name was also implemented as many other similar programs were adopting new names. Common options at the time included Biological Engineering, Biosystems Engineering, Bioresource Engineering, and Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering. Faculty at the time decided on Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering, the current name.

As a result of numerous departments changing their name, the Canadian Society for Bioengineering (CSBE) and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) held a 2005 meeting of department and program heads to discuss name unity. The name Biological Engineering was determined to be the preferred program name for all similar programs to the University of Saskatchewan program.

Over the past 15 years the Department of Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering has debated a name change to better reflect the discipline, to come in line with other program names in North America and to attract a wider interest group of undergraduate students. In the past 10 years, name change discussion became bi-annual events and was on the agenda of yearly retreats. Many individuals felt that the historical name of including the word "Agricultural" was important while others preferred Biosystems Engineering or similar names. The consultations with industry and research collaborators revealed the same opinions with no consensus reached.

In light of the July 2005 vote by department and program heads (ASABE) to have name unity of Biological Engineering and the fact that the vast majority of similar programs had already adopted the name Biological Engineering, the Department of Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering voted on November 26, 2009 to change the program name at the University of Saskatchewan to Biological Engineering.

Contact Person: Dr. Nurul Chowdhury
Associate Dean-Student Affairs
College of Engineering

From: [Charles Maule](#)
To: [Fornssler, Cathie](#);
cc: [Chowdhury, Nurul](#); [Terry Fonstad](#); [cathy.mckenna@usask.ca](#); [charles.maule@usask.ca](#);
Subject: Fwd: ABE program name change
Date: Thursday, November 04, 2010 7:09:26 AM

Cathie;
Please let me know whether a signed hard copy is required.
Thank you
Charles Maule

----- Original Message -----

Subject:FW: ABE program name change
Date:Wed, 03 Nov 2010 17:04:49 -0600
From:Buhr, Mary <mary.buhr@usask.ca>
To:charles.maule@usask.ca <charles.maule@usask.ca>
CC:Romuld, Colleen <colleen.romuld@usask.ca>, Pennock, Daniel <dan.pennock@usask.ca>, Scoles, Graham <graham.scoles@usask.ca>, Barber, Ernie <ernie.barber@usask.ca>, Ledsham, Mary Anne <m.ledsham@usask.ca>

Dear Dr Maule,
I have discussed your request with my Associate Deans, and we are unanimously supportive of the programme name change (undergraduate engineering program 'Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering' to that of 'Biological Engineering') as indicated in the attached document.

Should you wish a formal signed hard-copy memo, please let me know and I will be happy to provide it.

Regards,
Mary Buhr

Mary M Buhr, PhD
Dean and Professor
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-----Original Message-----

From: Charles Maule [<mailto:charles.maule@usask.ca>]
Sent: November 3, 2010 3:47 PM
To: Buhr, Mary
Cc: Barber, Ernie; charles.maule@usask.ca; Chowdhury, Nurul
Subject: ABE program name change

Dean Buhr;
I am writing you in request for a memo of support regarding our department's request for a program name change. Our newly formed department (Chemical and Biological Engineering) is a merger of two departments (Chemical Engineering and Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering). Within the newly merged department the previous

undergraduate and graduate programs still maintain their identities. For a number of reasons (please refer to the attached memo), we wish to change the name of the undergraduate engineering program 'Agricultural and Bioresource Engineering' to that of 'Biological Engineering'. This name change has been approved of by our Department, our College, and recently by the University Academic Programs Committee (same attached memo), however conditional upon receiving a support memo from your College. Currently no course or program changes are associated with this name change - we are simply trying to better align our name with other such programs within North America.

I ask that you consider this request. Myself, or others from our Department or College, are be available to meet with you or your executive to provide further information on this as required.

Sincerely
Charles Maule

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