

Board Meeting
January 21, 2016

RENAME THE CENTER FOR PHARMACEUTICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY,
COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, CHICAGO

Action: Rename the Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, College of Pharmacy

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Chicago Senate and the College of Pharmacy recommends the renaming of the Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology as the Center for Biomolecular Sciences.

The Center for Pharmaceutical Biotechnology was established in March 1994. At the time of its establishment, the College of Pharmacy had research programs in traditional disciplines of pharmacy, but very little organized research in biotechnology, although biotechnology products in the Food and Drug Administration pipeline were increasing at a staggering rate. The goal of the “Center” was to provide an organization and environment that fostered collaboration and cooperation across unit boundaries both within the college and across the campus. The Center has been successful in that goal, developing programs that attract researchers from multiple colleges as well as other universities, attracting sizeable grants, and producing publications in top journals.

In the last ten years, the nature of the work of the Center has evolved. Instead of focusing on biotechnological aspects of pharmaceutical sciences, the current direction of research is aimed at advancing new approaches for understanding the cellular and molecular mechanisms of diseases, discovering novel molecular targets for therapeutic intervention, revealing mechanisms of drug action, and discovering new therapies. Given the current depth and breadth of activities, the current name no longer best represents the work and mission of the Center. Renaming the Center to focus on biomolecular sciences is appropriate given the current and future research emphasis, but is anticipated to favorably impact the review of grant applications and the recruitment of new faculty, researchers, and graduate students.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respect with applicable State and federal laws, University of Illinois *Statutes, The General Rules Concerning University Organization and Procedure*, and Board of Trustees policies and directives.

The Vice President for Academic Affairs concurs with this recommendation. The University Senates Conference has indicated that no further Senate jurisdiction is involved.

The President of the University recommends approval. This action is subject to further review and approval by the Illinois Board of Higher Education.