

Board Meeting  
July 23, 2020

RENAME THE RICHARD AND LOAN HILL DEPARTMENT OF  
BIOENGINEERING, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, COLLEGE OF MEDICINE,  
AND THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, CHICAGO

**Action:** Rename the Richard and Loan Hill Department of Bioengineering, College of Engineering, College of Medicine, and the Graduate College

**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, College of Engineering, College of Medicine, and the Graduate College recommends the renaming of the Richard and Loan Hill Department of Bioengineering as the Richard and Loan Hill Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Bioengineering at UIC traces its roots to 1965 when it started as undergraduate and graduate programs offered by the University of Illinois College of Medicine in collaboration with the new University of Illinois Chicago Circle and Presbyterian-St. Luke's Hospital (now Rush University Medical Center). With the formation of UIC in 1982, the bioengineering programs became a part of the Department of Bioengineering in the College of Engineering. In 2013, Bioengineering was reorganized as a department under both the college of Engineering and Medicine, and renamed in recognition of Richard and Loan Hill.

While the change in department name reflects the history and present of bioengineering at UIC, it should also be noted that the terms *bioengineering* and *biomedical engineering* are synonymous per the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Educational Statistics, which is responsible for the classification of instructional programs. Further, accreditation standards for Bachelor of Science programs in bioengineering and biomedical engineering are identical. A survey of ABET-accredited programs shows the name biomedical engineering is more commonly used than bioengineering (86 versus 28). Despite their identical meanings with respect to government and educational review standards, feedback from alumni, industry employers, and prospective students indicate a perceived difference and preference for the use of biomedical engineering.

The department currently has 20 full-time equivalent core faculty, and over 100 affiliate faculty members in seven UIC colleges. It has a strong tradition of programs in cell and tissue engineering, neural engineering, bioinformatics, biomedical imaging, and biomechanics and biomolecular engineering. It also offers five-degree programs – the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Bioengineering and M.S. and Ph.D. in Bioinformatics – which, by organizational agreement, are administered by the College of Engineering.

The Hill Family have submitted written confirmation in support of the renaming of the department. This item is being submitted simultaneously with an item to rename the bioengineering degrees as the B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering.

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 Executive Vice President and 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.