

Board Meeting
January 15, 2015

RENAME THE CENTER FOR BIOPHYSICS AND COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY AND
THE MASTER OF SCIENCE AND DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN BIOPHYSICS AND
COMPUTATIONAL BIOLOGY, COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES AND
THE GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

Action: Rename the Center for Biophysics and Computational Biology and the Master of Science and Doctor of Philosophy in Biophysics and Computational Biology, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and Vice President, University of Illinois with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Graduate College to rename the Center for Biophysics and Computational Biology as the Center for Biophysics and Quantitative Biology and rename the associated graduate major as Biophysics and Quantitative Biology.

The current name of the Center and its academic programs dates back to 1996. Computational Biology was a relatively new, but rapidly growing discipline, and combining it with the existing strength of Biophysics was a forward-looking move to establish Illinois as the world class university in Biophysics. Existing highly ranked associated units on the Urbana campus have reached these levels of recognition in no small part due to the outstanding graduate students admitted to the program. Now, however, the

field of Computational Biophysics is well-established and should be considered part of Biophysics. The new name will help the Center to broaden its scope and to take leadership in coordinating Experimental and Computational Biophysics, Computational Genomics, and Systems and Synthetic Biology on campus. Including Quantitative Biology in the name of the Center will help bring in outstanding faculty and students in the areas of Computational Genomics, Systems Biology, Quantitative Proteomics, and Synthetic Biology that are not traditionally associated with Biophysics. With the new brand and an expanded faculty that goes beyond traditional biophysics and computational biology, the Center will help lower the barriers for joint educational and hiring initiatives across departments and colleges.

The Board action recommended in this item complies in all material respects 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.