

Board Meeting
May 22, 2008

ESTABLISH THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN BIOENERGY WITH A
CONCENTRATION IN PROFESSIONAL SCIENCE MASTERS, COLLEGE OF
AGRICULTURAL, CONSUMER AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AND THE
GRADUATE COLLEGE, URBANA

Action: Approve the Establishment of the Master of Science in Bioenergy with a Concentration in Professional Science Masters, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College, Urbana

Funding: No New Funding Required

The Chancellor at Urbana with the advice of the Urbana-Champaign Senate recommends approval of a proposal from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and the Graduate College to establish the M.S. in Bioenergy with a concentration in Professional Science Masters.

The development of the M.S. in Bioenergy will bring together the multi-disciplinary teaching and training resources and creative educational tools to motivate and prepare a new generation of students for further challenges and job opportunities in bioenergy. There is growing demand for a well-educated scientific-technical workforce in bioenergy and related biosciences. A pool of skilled scientists, managers, engineers, socio-economists, and technicians needs to be developed for the application of advanced and innovative methods of energy production. Given the timeliness of bioenergy, this

curriculum is expected to increase the attractiveness and competitiveness of the University for students and stakeholders utilizing these resources.

Paired with the “Professional Science Masters” (PSM) concentration, the degree is designed to enable students to pursue advanced training in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics, while simultaneously developing workplace skills highly valued by employers. In addition to receiving training in the general field of bioenergy, students gain relevant professional experience in business and related topics through coursework and an internship.

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.