

MEMORANDUM

To: Board of Regents
From: Board Office
Subject: Discontinue M.S. and Ph.D. Degree Programs in Biomedical Engineering, Iowa State University
Date: June 7, 2004

Recommended Action:

Approve Iowa State University's request to discontinue the M.S. and Ph.D. Degree Programs in Biomedical Engineering.

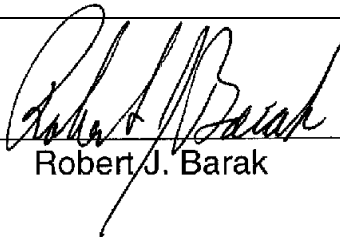
Executive Summary:

Changing Priorities in Colleges of Engineering and Vet Med The University is requesting approval to discontinue the Master and doctoral program in Biomedical Engineering that is currently administered by the Graduate College. This request is due to the difficulty of maintaining a vigorous graduate faculty in the discipline in response to changing priorities in the Colleges of Engineering and Veterinary Medicine.

No Current Students No students have been admitted for four years, and the program graduated the last enrolled student this semester.

Alternative Programs at SUI The University of Iowa maintains a strong program in Biomedical Engineering that will satisfy the desire of students to pursue this specialization.

Additional information on the proposed discontinuance is attached.


Robert J. Barak

Approved: 
Gregory S. Nichols

Proposal for Discontinuation of the Biomedical Engineering Degrees

1. Name of administrator, department or group originating the proposal. Include the name of contact person(s).

John Mayfield, Associate Dean of the Graduate College

2. Name of the program.

Biomedical Engineering (M.S. and PhD)

3. Name of the department(s) which administers the program.

Graduate College

4. Rationale for discontinuation.

Changing priorities in the colleges of Engineering and Veterinary Medicine made it increasingly difficult to maintain a vigorous graduate faculty in this area. Funding was gradually removed from the program by the two colleges starting five years ago as students graduated. Attempts to find faculty leadership for the program have failed; faculty have lost interest in the program. No students have been admitted for four years. The program has only one remaining student who hopes to graduate in spring 2004.

5. Availability of similar programs at other Regent's institutions.

The University of Iowa has a graduate program in Biomedical Engineering focusing on human health.

6. Enrollment data for current and previous four years.

AY 03-04	1
AY 02-03	1
AY 01-02	2
AY 00-01	7
AY 99-00	11

7. Information required by the Board of Regents:

- a. A survey of students currently enrolled in a program to determine the impact of the discontinuance on their academic plans. The survey should attempt to identify students who wish (i) to complete the program; (ii) to transfer to other programs at the same institution; and (iii) to leave the institution.

The remaining student plans to complete the master's program. He hopes to graduate in spring 2004.

- b. On the basis of the data collected, a projection of faculty and staff needed to accommodate student needs in order to maintain program quality, and both a time frame for, and the costs of, program phase-out.

The remaining student is completing his research. He has completed all required courses. Remaining need is major professor time.

- c. A description of the amount of money, if any, that would become available for redirection under the institution's strategic plan as a result of the discontinuance of a program.

None

- d. A description of the impact the discontinuance will have on other programs offered by and the overall mission of the institution.

None

- e. A description of the impact on minorities and on women.

The remaining student is categorized as a minority.

- f. A description of the potential faculty and staff reductions or reassignments that would result from the discontinuance.

None

- g. A description of how existing facilities and equipment freed by the discontinuance would be utilized.

No resources are currently devoted to the program.

8. Departmental/interdepartmental Review:

The program faculty are no longer active in the program. Ten faculty are formally associated with the program. The results of a formal faculty vote to discontinue are as follows: Approved, 5; Opposed, 1; Abstained, 1; not responding, 3.

Discontinuance was approved unanimously by the Graduate Curriculum and Catalog Committee, which has oversight responsibility for graduate interdepartmental programs.