

Example – Establishment of a New Department

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN REGENTS COMMUNICATION

ACTION REQUEST: Approval to Establish an Instructional Department

TITLE: Department of Biomedical Engineering

EFFECTIVE DATE: May 1, 2004

The College of Engineering requests approval to establish a Department of Biomedical Engineering. This proposal is the result of extensive discussions between and among the College of Engineering, the Medical School and the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies as to how to transform the University's current Bioengineering Program into a more permanent, cohesive structure. The proposed change will position the university to successfully compete for the best students and faculty working in such areas as biomedical imaging, biomechanics, biomaterial, bioelectrical systems, and biotechnology.

The new department will consist of approximately twelve full time equivalent (FTE) faculty, five of whom will be new hires. Initial support for these new appointments, which are tenure-track positions in the department, is being provided by the Whitaker Foundation. The remaining 7 FTE's will be comprised of faculty who wish to have some of their effort reallocated to Biomedical Engineering. The location of the department in the college will provide the financial stability, the facilities, and focused faculty necessary to develop innovative curricula at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. The appointment of the chair of the department will be recommended by the executive committee and dean of the College of Engineering in a future request.

The reorganization of bioengineering at the University of Michigan also entails the creation of a new Center for Biomedical Engineering Research which will be jointly administered by the Medical School and the College of Engineering.

The dean and the executive committee of the College of Engineering believe that the new Department of Biomedical Engineering is the organizational unit needed to sustain and enhance the University's reputation for excellence in bioengineering that has been achieved over the past thirty years. The department was approved by the faculty of the College of Engineering on December 12, 2003. The Regents are asked to approve the establishment of this department effective May 1, 2004.

RECOMMENDED BY:

RECOMMENDATION ENDORSED BY:

Stephen W. Director
Dean, College of Engineering

Paul N. Courant
Provost, and Executive Vice President
For Academic Affairs

April 2004