

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

PROPOSED NAME CHANGE
DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

Action Requested: Consider recommending approval to the Board of the request by the University of Northern Iowa to change the name of the Department of Chemistry to the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Executive Summary: The proposed name will more appropriately reflect the increasing contributions of the biochemistry discipline to research and knowledge in the traditional areas of chemistry. This request has been reviewed by the Council of Provosts and the Board Office and is recommended for approval. There are no objections to the name change.

Background:

- ◇ In 1999, the American Chemical Society's Committee on Professional Training added biochemistry to the list of core courses in chemistry that are required for accreditation.
- ◇ The American Chemical Society Committee on Professional Training's change has been reflected by the UNI Department of Chemistry in its recent faculty hires and biochemistry course additions to the curriculum.
- ◇ Institutions similar to UNI have either separate departments of biochemistry or combined departments of chemistry and biochemistry.
- ◇ The recent establishment of a major in Bioinformatics at UNI, an area closely allied with biochemistry and molecular biology, demonstrates that the interest in biochemistry extends to related fields, such as computer science.
- ◇ Increased visibility and contributions of biochemistry have expanded the boundaries of the traditional chemistry major and the department would like to reflect this shift in its name to communicate more clearly its academic activities to prospective students, current students, and other constituencies.

Details about the name change are on file in the Board Office.