

Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

5/20/14

**PROPOSAL TITLE:**

Rename the Institute for Genomic Biology as the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology,  
Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

**SPONSOR:**

Professor Gene E. Robinson  
Director, Institute for Genomic Biology  
265-0950  
[generobi@illinois.edu](mailto:generobi@illinois.edu)

**COLLEGE CONTACT:**

Dr. Peter E. Schiffer  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
333-0034  
[pschiffe@illinois.edu](mailto:pschiffe@illinois.edu)

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION:**

This proposal seeks to rename the Institute for Genomic Biology (IGB) as the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (The Woese Institute).

**JUSTIFICATION:**

The Institute for Genomic Biology was established by the Illinois Board of Higher Education in 2004 as a unit of research with temporary status and formally received UIUC Senate approval as a research unit on 28 February 2011 (GP.11.03)<sup>1</sup>. As detailed in the original proposal, the mission of the IGB is to advance life science research at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and to stimulate economic development in the State of Illinois. The IGB's exemplary achievements are built on a legacy of talented thinkers and visionaries, none more instrumental or inspiring than Carl R. Woese, a founding member of the IGB, and one of the world's most important evolutionary biologists of the twentieth century. An American microbiologist and award-winning Illinois faculty member, Woese's contributions to science were profound. Woese won numerous international and national awards, including the Crafoord Prize, National Medal of Science, and van Leeuwenhoek Medal. Woese developed a deep attachment to the IGB and its mission. In an effort to elevate the IGB's visibility to an international level and to memorialize Woese, the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology (The Woese Institute) as a name will help achieve these goals. We also anticipate significant positive effects on Advancement efforts for the Institute with this new name. For example, the building and/or some components within IGB, such as the Core Facilities & Microscopy Suite or Interdisciplinary Science Instructional Facility, could be named in honor of generous donors.

**BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:**

- a. Additional staff and dollars needed – The proposed name change does not require additional resources.
- b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.) – N/A
- c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments – N/A
- d. Impact on the University Library (A letter of acknowledgement from the University Librarian must be included for all new program proposals.) – N/A
- e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc. – N/A

**DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE:** November 3, 2014

**STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:** N/A

**FUTURE PLANS:**

If this request is approved, then the IGB will seek the recommendation of the Chancellor's Capital Review Committee. The IGB will then follow the timeline for BOT approval for its September 11, 2014 meeting. If all these requests are approved, then the IGB will assume responsibility for all communications aspects with the name change by collaborating with the Office of Public Affairs. The IGB is developing a professionally designed permanent exhibition honoring Woese in the IGB Gatehouse administration building's lobby. The opening of the exhibit will be scheduled for December 2014, which would complement the renaming of the Institute.

**ABOUT CARL R. WOESE:**

Carl Woese was a professor of microbiology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a faculty member of the Institute for Genomic Biology. He was awarded the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation "genius" award in 1984, and the National Academy of Sciences elected him to membership in 1988. In 1992 the Dutch Royal Academy of Science gave him the highest honor bestowed upon any microbiologist, the Leeuwenhoek Medal, awarded only once every 10 years. He was given the National Medal of Science in 2000 "for his brilliant and original insights, through molecular studies of RNA sequences, to explore the history of life on Earth." In 2003 the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded Woese the Crafoord Prize in Biosciences for his discovery of the third domain of life. The Crafoord award honors scientists whose work does not fall into any of the categories covered by Nobel Prizes. The Royal Society, the world's oldest continuously active scientific organization, elected Woese as a foreign member in 2006. He held the Stanley O. Ikenberry Endowed Chair and served as Center for Advanced Study Professor of Microbiology.

**SUPPORT:**

John E. Cronan, Head, Department of Microbiology

Stephen G. Sligar, Director, School of Molecular & Cellular Biology

Brian H. Ross, Interim Dean, and Barbara J. Wilson, Dean Designate, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Dale J. Van Harlingen, Head, Department of Physics

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EP.15.06

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor  
for Academic Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building  
601 East John Street  
Champaign, IL 61820



August 8, 2014

Gay Miller, Chair  
Senate Committee on Educational Policy  
Office of the Senate  
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a copy of a proposal from the Vice Chancellor for Research to rename the Institute for Genomic Biology as the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology.

It now requires Senate review.

Sincerely,

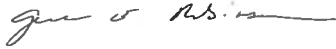
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Kristi A. Kuntz'.

Kristi A. Kuntz  
Associate Provost

Enclosures

c: G. Robinson  
P. Schiffer

**CLEARANCES:**



Sponsor  
Gene E. Robinson, Director, Institute for Genomic Biology

20 May 2014  
Date



Peter E. Schiffer, Vice Chancellor, Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research

22 May 2014  
Date

1. <http://www.senate.illinois.edu/gp1103.pdf>