

Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE:

Establish a Graduate Concentration in "Cancer Nanotechnology" in the Department of Bioengineering, College of Engineering

SPONSORS:

Rashid Bashir, Department Head, Bioengineering, Professor of Bioengineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering, 217-333-1867, <u>rbashir@illinois.edu</u>, and

Rohit Bhargava, Professor of Bioengineering, 217-265-6596, <u>rxb@illinois.edu</u>.

COLLEGE CONTACT:

William Buttlar, Associate Dean for Graduate and Professional Programs, College of Engineering, 217-333-5966, <u>buttlar@illinois.edu</u>

BRIEF DESCRIPTION:

This proposal seeks the approval of a Cancer Nanotechnology Graduate Concentration to be offered through the Department of Bioengineering. The proposed Concentration requires students to complete a minimum of three courses for a total of 12 credit hours in topics integral to Cancer Nanotechnology (see Appendix A for requirements). Courses will be chosen from existing Illinois graduate courses in engineering, biology, and the sciences, to provide an interdisciplinary experience required for cutting edge research in cancer nanotechnology.

This concentration will be open to students in relevant disciplines within the College of Engineering (Bioengineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Mechanical Science and Engineering) with the hope of expanding to relevant disciplines outside the College of Engineering in the future (Biochemistry, Cell and Developmental Biology, Chemistry, etc.). The Concentration will be fully compatible with traditional degree requirements in the various home departments (see Appendix B for departmental approvals). Students are expected to have graduate standing in one of the participating departments.

JUSTIFICATION:

The need for interdisciplinary solutions to complex problems, continuing advancements in computing and informatics, and shortages in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) workforce at all levels, call for a new generation of scientists who are equipped to face these challenges. In response, we will create and evaluate an interdisciplinary concentration that provides a diverse array of graduate students with training in the integration of biological sciences with physical and applied sciences.

It is known that more than a 1.5 million people were diagnosed with cancer and half a million died of cancer in US alone during 2010 (Cancer Statistics 2010, ACS). In spite of a considerable effort, there has been limited success in reducing per capita deaths from cancer since 1950. This calls for a paradigm shift in the understanding, detection and intervention of the evolution of cancer from a single cell to tumor scale. A Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration would allow our graduate students to focus in an area that will address the challenge of understanding, managing, diagnosing, and treatment of cancer using the most recent advancements in nanotechnology.

Nanotechnology is an emerging area and very few programs offer the proposed concentration. We are one of the few sites of the NIH training grants that are in a position to offer this concentration at the leading edge of cancer research and innovation. The availability of this concentration will further enhance our educational offerings and position the college to be a leader in the applications to biomedical problems. Cancer-related industries provide new opportunities for our graduates. Transcription of this credential will provide our graduates with an advantage in the competitive applicant pool for these positions. For our current graduates, this transcriptable concentration is also an achievement and a focus on a problem and technology that distinguishes their training. The emerging intersection of cancer and nanotechnology research is very attractive to many prospective graduate students. A clear, transcriptable designation helps us attract the best students in this area, who would otherwise go to competing programs.

The proposed concentration spans the disciplines included. While the applications in cancer fall into the Bioengineering domain, nanotechnology is widely spread among many disciplines. Notably, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering and Mechanical Science and Engineering, are the closest disciplines in the college and have provided letters of support for this program. Most commonly, advances in one engineering discipline, such as in electromagnetics or nanoparticle formation, need to occur to solve a problem in human disease and physiology. While the eventual design, application, and use is largely within Bioengineering, training in this department alone is insufficient to make significant advances. Hence, we are proposing the concentration to be broader than one department.

We anticipate that 10 graduate students per year will be accepted into this concentration at steady-state. Applicants will follow the established university procedures for indicating their interest in this concentration. Their application and background will be reviewed by the graduate coordinator in Bioengineering who will also provide students with details on this concentration's courses and requirements.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS:

a. Additional staff and dollars needed

Graduate staff in the Department of Bioengineering has the capacity to absorb this additional program. They will serve as program advisors and maintain the concentration records, process admissions, and coordinate with departments regarding awarding of this concentration.

b. Internal reallocations (e.g., change in class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratio, etc.)

We expect that each course could see an enrollment increase of 5-7 students per year. Each department whose course is represented in this proposal has provided a letter indicating that each course has the capacity to absorb this additional enrollment.

c. Effect on course enrollment in other units and explanations of discussions with representatives of those departments

As per the attached letters in Appendix C, this additional enrollment can be accommodated in each course associated with this concentration.

d. Impact on the University Library

Those admitted to this concentration will be current University of Illinois graduate students. Therefore, there would be no additional impact beyond what is already accounted for in the typical graduate student population.

e. Impact on computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.

No increase in the graduate student population is expected since those admitted to this concentration will be current University of Illinois graduate students. Therefore, there would be no additional impact beyond what is already accounted for in the typical graduate student population.

DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG (for the Bioengineering Department):

The Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration prepares students for collaborative research across the disciplines of engineering, biology, and the sciences with an emphasis on the use of Nanotechnology in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Students must be enrolled in a graduate degree program from one of the participating departments (Bioengineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Mechanical Science and

Engineering). The Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration requires students to earn a B or better in each concentration course. Students must complete 12 credit hours, including at least one core Cancer course and one core Nanotechnology course. Participants may take a second core Cancer course and/or a second core Nanotechnology course as an elective. Fulfillment of these requirements will be monitored by the graduate coordinator in Bioengineering.

Core C	ancer courses:					
	BIOE 479	Cancer Nanotechnology	3 hours			
	MCB 400	Cancer Cell Biology	3 hours			
	BIOE 498 RB	Cancer Science and Technology	3 or 4 hours			
Core N	Core Nanotechnology courses:					
	ABE 446	Biological Nanoengineering	3 or 4 hours			
	BIOE 416	Biosensors	3 hours			
	ECE/ME 485	Introduction to Micro	3 hours			
		Electromechanical Devices and Systems	3			
Elective Courses:						
	FSHN 480	Basic Toxicology	3 hours			
	ME 483	Mechanobiology	4 hours			
	ME 487	MEMS-NEMS Theory and Fabrication	4 hours			
	ME 586	Mechanics of MEMS and NEMS	4 hours			

Alternate courses may be applicable to the Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration pending approval by the Bioengineering Graduate Program. Please note that for those intending to complete both a Cancer Nanotechnology and a Biomechanics Concentration, only one course may overlap.

Courses taken toward this concentration will count toward the graduate degree in each participating program. Students must notify their department of their plan to pursue this concentration. When choosing courses, students must work directly with their department to ensure that all degree requirements will be met. The Statement for Programs of Study Catalog for the other three majors listed in the concentration description can be found in Appendix D.

Page 5 of 17

CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. These signatures must appear on a separate sheet. If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

Signatures:

Unit Representative (Bioengineering):

W

Unit Representative (Electrical and Computer Engineering):

M Edd

Unit Representative (Materials Science and Engineering):

Unit Representative (Mechanical Science and Engineering):

_____ _10/13/14_ Date:

__10/14/14_____ Date:

October 10, 2014_____ Date:

10/14/14 Date:

Date:

College Representative (Engineering):

Graduate College Representative:

Date:

Appendix A Concentration Courses and Requirements

The Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration requires students to earn a B or better in each concentration course. Students must complete 12 credit hours, including at least one core Cancer course and one core Nanotechnology course. Participants may take a second core Cancer course and/or a second core Nanotechnology course as an elective. Fulfillment of these requirements will be monitored by the graduate coordinator in Bioengineering.

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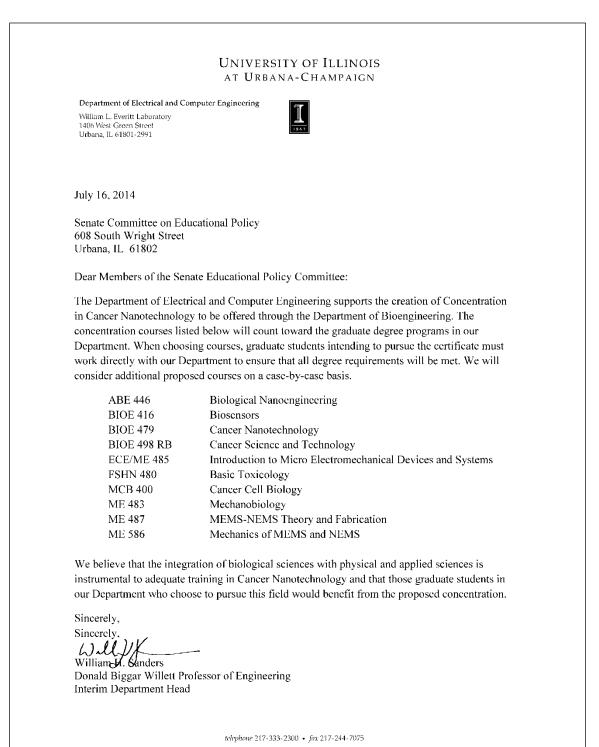
A Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration Web site will be created to inform prospective students about program requirements. The Web site will also serve as a resource for students pursuing this concentration and will be kept up-to-date with course additions and program updates. Please note that for those intending to complete both a Cancer Nanotechnology and a Biomechanics Concentration, only one course may overlap.

It is understood that alternate courses may be appropriate to include in the Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration. In order for alternate courses to be considered, the student must submit the course syllabus to the Bioengineering graduate coordinator prior to enrolling in the course. The syllabus will be reviewed by the Department of Bioengineering to determine if the course covers the appropriate topics. If approved, both the student and the student's departmental graduate contact will be notified in writing, and the approval will be noted in the student's file. A report of progress toward the concentration will be available to each student upon request.

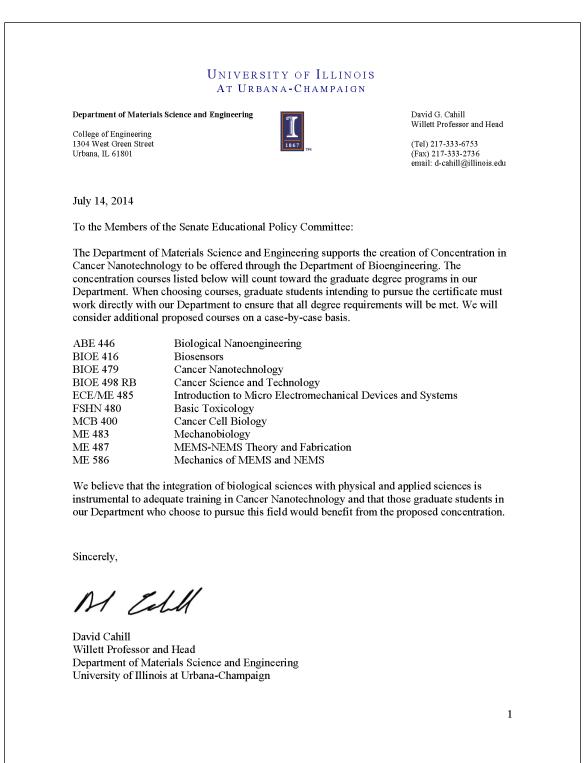
Applicants will follow the established University procedure for indicating their interest in this concentration. The graduate coordinator in Bioengineering will review the applicant's application and background and provide details on the concentration's courses and requirements. Graduate students are responsible for ensuring that they have the appropriate background for any courses in which they enroll. The Bioengineering graduate coordinator will be available to discuss courses and prerequisites with students considering the Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration. At the conclusion of the student's degree, the Bioengineering graduate coordinator will work with the student's department to review the concentration course progress and certify that the requirements for the concentration have been met.

Appendix B Letters of Support for Concentration

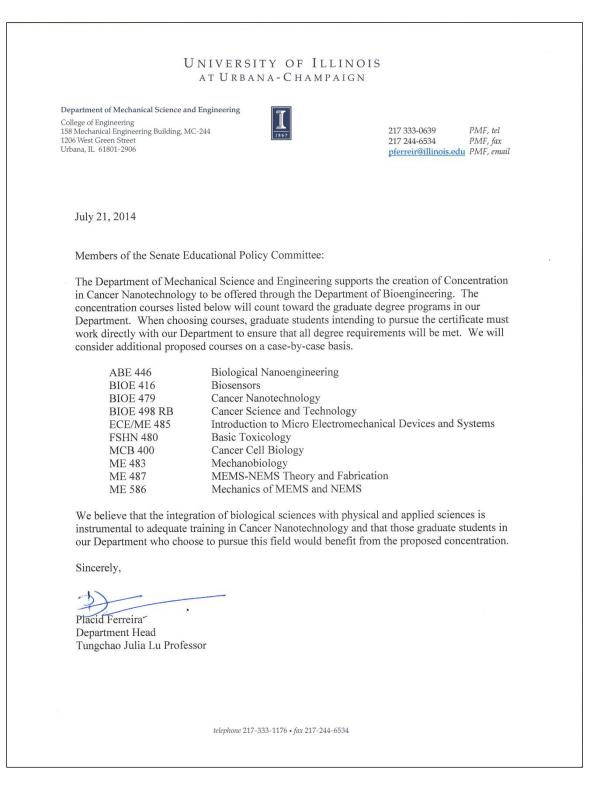
Electrical and Computer Engineering



Materials Science and Engineering



Mechanical Science and Engineering

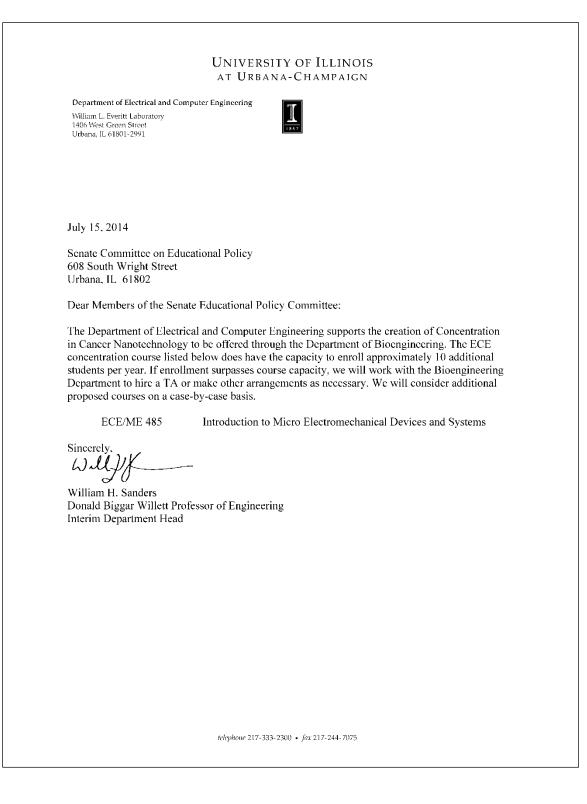


Appendix C Letters Indicating that Courses can Absorb Students

Agricultural and Biological Engineering (ABE)

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN	
Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences and College of Engineering 338 Agricultural Engineering Sciences Building 1304 W. Pennsylvania Avenue Urbana, IL 61801	
July 14, 2014	
Members of the Senate Educational Policy Committee:	
The Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering supports the creation of Concentration in Cancer Nanotechnology to be offered through the Department of Bioengineering. The ABE concentration course listed below does have the capacity to enroll approximately 5-7 additional students per year. If enrollment surpasses course capacity, we will work with the Bioengineering Department to hire a TA or make other arrangements as necessary. We will consider additional proposed courses on a case-by-case basis.	
ABE 446 Biological Nanoengineering	l.
Sincerely, X.C. Ting Professor and Head Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering	
·	
<i>Telephone</i> 217-333-3570 * <i>fax</i> 217-244-0323 <i>Email</i> <u>abe@illinois.edu</u> * <i>url</i> http://abe.illinois.edu	

Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE)



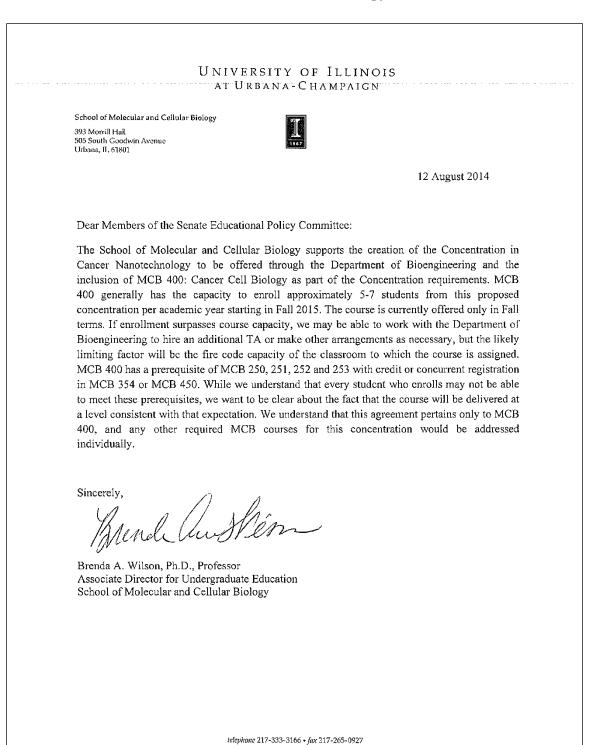
Food Science and Human Nutrition (FSHN)

		RSITY OF II ANA-CHAI	
Department of Food College of Agricultura and Environmental Sci 260A Bevier Hall 905 S. Goodwin Aven	iences		Dr. Shelly Nickok-Richardson, Professor and Head nickrich@illinois.edu
Urbana, IL 61801	be		
July 15, 2014			
	nal Policy Committee 10is, Urbana-Champaign		
Dear Members o	f the Senate Educational P	Policy Commit	tee:
approximately 5- ENVS 480. The le (CB), College of V consulted on this Concentration in with CB will work to make other ar	-7 additional students per y ad instructors of this cours /eterinary Medicine, and D s matter and are supportiv . Cancer Nanotechnology. I < with the Bioengineering [year. This cou se, Dr. Micha)r. Zeynep Ma re of the inclu If enrollment Department t	elow has the capacity to enroll urse is cross-listed as CB 449, CPSC 433 and el Biehl from Comparative Biosciences adak-Erdogan from FSHN, have been sion of FSHN 480 as a course in the surpasses course capacity, FSHN along to provide a Teaching Assistant or grader or apartment will consider additional
FSHN 480	Basic Toxicology	(cross-listed	as CB 449, CPSC 433, ENVS 480)
I look forward to concentration.	a positive response and a	nticipate a hij	gh level of interest in this proposed
Sincerely,			
Jharo M. Richel Scher	bn		
Sharon M. Nickol Professor and He	ls-Richardson ead, FSHN Department		
		-	
	telephone 217-9	244-4498 • <i>fa</i> o	C 217-333-9689

Mechanical Science and Engineering (ME)



Molecular and Cellular Biology (MCB)



Appendix D Statements for Programs of Study Catalog

Electrical and Computer Engineering

The Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration prepares students for collaborative research across the disciplines of engineering, biology, and the sciences with an emphasis on the use of Nanotechnology in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer. Students must be enrolled in a graduate degree program from one of the participating departments (Bioengineering, Electrical and Computer Engineering, Materials Science and Engineering, and Mechanical Science and Engineering). The Cancer Nanotechnology Concentration requires students to earn a B or better in each concentration course. Students must complete 12 credit hours, including at least one core Cancer course and one core Nanotechnology course. Participants may take a second core Cancer course and/or a second core Nanotechnology course as an elective. Fulfillment of these requirements will be monitored by the graduate coordinator in Bioengineering.

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Materials Science and Engineering

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