Nov. 25, 2013

Requesting Faculty Senate Approval for
Renaming the “Chemical Engineering” Department as “Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering”

The Department of Chemical Engineering is seeking Senate approval for renaming itself the “Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering”. There are several reasons for the name change. First, this name better reflects the increasingly important role of bio-related topics in the expanding field of chemical engineering. The new name more accurately represents the department’s strategic plan, which includes an increased emphasis on biomolecular-related research and teaching. A number of chemical engineering faculty members are currently involved in biomolecular-related research and the department offers an undergraduate program concentration in this area, which broadens employment prospects for our students. Second, the proposed name would enhance our ability to attract broader range of highly motivated undergraduate and graduate students, and also enhance our ability to hire outstanding faculty in this area. The newly formed “biomolecular engineering research cluster” within the Case School of Engineering would also benefit from association with a department with a stated focus in the area. Further, the new name places us among a dynamic and forward-thinking group of chemical engineering departments that have recently renamed themselves [illegible] group the