

REPORT FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

Brief History of Issue - why the issue is being considered:

The Material Science and Engineering program requests approval to establish a Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering (BME) degree. The BME program will complement UW-Eau Claire's strong program array in the sciences and mathematics, including its existing Materials Science and Engineering (MS&E) curriculum and infrastructure. BME graduates will be equipped to help address the increasing demand for biomedical solutions to serve the health care needs of an aging U.S. population. The comprehensive major will be comprised of 93 credits in a 128-credit degree. The proposed major will provide students with a strong foundation in the sciences and math, as well as experiences relevant to many engineering curricula. The biomedical engineering experiences will include how medical devices interface to living organisms, how mechanical aspects of living organisms can be understood and augmented, and how materials foreign to an organism elicit a response and how such materials can be modified to be more biocompatible.

Points Discussed by Committee:

1. Additional faculty needed for six new proposed courses (UWEC resource allocation).
2. Limited lab space availability for faculty and students.
3. Course and seat availability for Biology and Chemistry prerequisite courses.
4. Major credits requirements and total credits-to-degree requirements (ABET Accreditation alignment).
5. Current library resources may not be able to support needs of BME.
6. Tuition structure for engineering programs are different from other university programs.

Pros of Recommendation:

The proposed B.S. in Biomedical Engineering aligns with the goals of the university's Strategic Plan and Academic Master Plan. The new program will take full advantage of UW-Eau Claire's collaboration with Mayo Clinic Health System. If approved, UWEC will represent only the third biomedical engineering degree within the UW System, the only such program at a comprehensive campus, and the only such program north and west of Madison.

Cons of Recommendation:

none

Technology/Human Resource Impact:

None

Committee Recommendation:

The committee approved the creation of a 128-credit major in Biomedical Engineering.

MOTION FOR THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

The University Senate Committee: Academic Policies Committee

by a vote of 8 for to 0 against on April 9, 2019 (Date)

Recommends that:

The creation of a 128-credit major in Biomedical Engineering starting 2019-2020 AY:

Implementation Date: 19/20 catalog

Signed: _____
Chair of the Committee

Send to: University Senate Office