Re: Program Name Change: Bioengineering to Biological Engineering

History
In 2003, the Chemical Engineering Department at Montana State University was renamed the Chemical and Biological Engineering Department. In November, 2006, the Board of Regents approved a Bioengineering degree at Montana State University that was through the Chemical and Biological Engineering department. Initially, the Bioengineering degree was for a Dual Degree Program (DDP) between Montana State University and Istanbul Technical University, but it later expanded to include a regular (non-DDP) Bioengineering degree. It is believed that the name ‘Bioengineering’ was intended to be a simplification of ‘Biological Engineering’.

Impetus
The Chemical and Biological Engineering department is seeking ABET accreditation for the Bioengineering program. According to ABET, programs and degrees with the name ‘Bioengineering’ are equivalent to programs and degrees with the name ‘Biomedical Engineering’. Thus, a program or degree in Bioengineering must include the same curriculum and meet the same program criteria as a Biomedical Engineering program, according to ABET. The Bioengineering program at Montana State University, however, was developed with a curriculum that prepares graduates to apply engineering to biological systems, which ABET identifies as ‘Biological Engineering’. The current curriculum does not address human physiology, biomedical devices design, or bioinstrumentation, all of which are required by ABET for a Bioengineering or Biomedical Engineering program.

Request
We are requesting a renaming of the ‘Bioengineering’ program and degree to ‘Biological Engineering’. This name will better reflect the curriculum and content of the program, and it is a necessary change for ABET accreditation.

We are also requesting that the Dual Degree Program in Bioengineering with Istanbul Technical University be specifically excluded from this request and that the Bioengineering name be retained for this unique program. A renaming of this program would require additional approval from Istanbul Technical University and its governing bodies.

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