



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES

THE UNIVERSITY
of NORTH CAROLINA
at CHAPEL HILL

November 16, 2012

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To: Bobbi Owen, Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Education

Re: Revisions related to Biomedical Engineering and Applied Physical Sciences

Background: Many seminal scientific discoveries of the 21st century will be made at the interface between the traditional science disciplines. Translating those discoveries into solutions to the critical problems of society will require the integration of the basic sciences with applications driven research. On the basis of the report of a year-long task force study, "A Strategic Roadmap for Applied Physical Sciences," the College of Arts & Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill proposes to establish The Department of Applied Physical Sciences, with the following goals:

- to expand interdisciplinary research and teaching by creating an intellectual climate in which science is collaborative and problem-based
- to create connections among disciplinary departments in the natural sciences (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Astronomy, and Computer Science)
- to facilitate the breakdown of traditional boundaries that once separated the basic sciences from applications
- to enhance the natural science disciplines in the College and interface with the university's distinguished research activities in the health sciences
- to grow and diversify the University's portfolio of federal research funding in the rapidly changing funding landscape.
- to generate employment opportunities and economic development in the state

In parallel with the establishment of the Department of Applied Physical Sciences, as recommended by the task force report, the College proposes to formalize the Department of Biomedical Engineering as a joint department between the School of Medicine, the College of Arts and Sciences, and The North Carolina State University School of Engineering. Biomedical engineering resides at the interface between the natural sciences and the health sciences and a closer association with the College would represent a significant step forward in creating bridges across traditional schools.

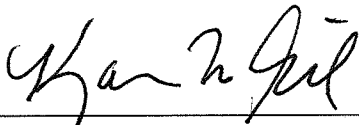
In order to carry out these activities, we ask that the Administrative Boards consider the following recommendations:

1. Revise the name *Curriculum in Applied Sciences and Engineering* to *Department of Applied Physical Sciences*, effective July 1, 2013.
2. Revise the reporting structure of the *Department of Biomedical Engineering* to be a joint department between the School of Medicine and CAS, effective July 1, 2013.
3. Change the home unit of the *major in applied science* from the Curriculum in Applied Sciences and Engineering (#3232, in CAS) to the Department of Biomedical Engineering (#4275, to be joint between CAS and School of Medicine), effective Fall 2013. [The current

graduate program in Materials Science (MS, PhD) will remain with Applied Physical Sciences.]

4. Unless specified explicitly as an exception here, existing APPL courses should be assigned to Biomedical Engineering as a home unit, while existing MTSC courses should be assigned to Applied Physical Sciences. The exceptions are that
 - a. APPL 390,
 - b. APPL 470,
 - c. APPL 491L,
 - d. APPL 492L, and
 - e. APPL 520L should be assigned to Applied Physical Sciences.

Sincerely,



Karen M. Gil, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

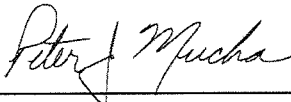
- We the undersigned support the proposed changes described above.



Terry Magnuson, Vice Dean for Research, School of Medicine



Nancy Allbritton, Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering and Chair, Curriculum in Applied Sciences and Engineering



Peter J. Mucha, Incoming Chair, Department of Applied Physical Sciences