
Recommendation:

That the Department of Chemistry be renamed the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, effective Fall, 2004.

Rationale:

The UW Board of Regents approved a new biochemistry major to be offered by the Department. The major is distinct from the chemistry major with biochemistry option. The Department plans to revise the requirements of the chemistry major/biochemistry option to meet certification requirements of the American Chemical Society (ACS). Initial indications are that the proposed requirements would be approved by the appropriate committees of the ACS. At such time, there would be two attractive biochemistry undergraduate programs (as well as the two existing chemistry programs, ACS approved and non-ACS approved) offered by the Department. We believe certification of the biochemistry option will be an important addition to the Department’s program array. This mixture of degree/major programs is better represented by the name Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

The proposed name change does not reflect any substantive change in the mission of the Department. The current array of undergraduate majors and graduate research projects will remain the same. There is no intention or proposition that the Department monopolize any research area by adopting the name Chemistry and Biochemistry. The name is meant only to reflect more clearly the nature of the curricula offered by the Department. Doing so will help the Department, the College, and the University attract students interested in either field and, therefore, represents an important step forward in the advancement of the campus, particularly in promoting the visibility of the natural sciences.

Approved:  Department of Chemistry Faculty (November 20, 2002, unanimous)
            L&S Academic Planning Committee (November 7, 2003, unanimous)
            L&S Faculty (December 11, 2003, unanimous)