



UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
Department of Bioengineering

Yongmin Kim, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair

May 9, 2001


John T. Slattery
Associate Dean
The Graduate School
Box 351240

Dear John,

Enclosed you will find the Department of Bioengineering's response to the Program Review Committee Report of March 19, 2001. We are very pleased with the report and appreciate the time spent by the committee in making a thorough review of our Department. They have made insightful observations, given us very good recommendations on areas we can improve, and have pointed out what is needed for the Department to achieve its goals.

I look forward to discussing this report at the Graduate School Council Meeting on May 31st at 2:30pm. If you have any questions, or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Yongmin Kim, Ph.D.
Professor and Chair

YK;rb

Enclosure

cc: Dean Denice Denton
Associate Dean Dan Dorsa
Bioengineering Advisory Committee
Student Advisory Board

5/9/01

RESPONSE
to the
Bioengineering Program Review Committee Report

Findings

As the Committee pointed out, the most serious weakness in the Department of Bioengineering is our dispersion across the UW campus (9 buildings and 17 locations within those buildings). For the Department to go to the next level of excellence in Bioengineering research, education, service, clinical applications, and technology transfer, a new building to bring these scattered research and teaching laboratories together is essential. On March 30, 2001, Provost Huntsman made a public announcement at the beginning of our annual Rushmer Lecture that the UW administration has decided to have a new building built for the Department of Bioengineering. This was the most significant defining moment in the 34-year history of Bioengineering at the University of Washington. We sincerely appreciate a strong recommendation from the review committee, which we believe played a key role in the UW central administration making this decision.

Undergraduate Program

It is our goal to expand our educational mission, including the new BS BIOE degree program, while enhancing our research excellence. Thus, we will be vigilant to ensure that the innovative edge of our high-quality research and leadership be maintained at the minimum. The UW central administration has fully supported our goal and implementation plan (slowly growing the number of undergraduate students admitted from 25 to 60 in the next five years) by providing the necessary resources by July 2003 in terms of four new faculty positions, six new teaching assistants, one additional academic counselor, two clerical support staff members, and 1.5 FTE technical support staff members, in addition to the Bioengineering Building, to be completed in early 2005. In the next four years, the Department of Bioengineering will need temporary space, particularly for its rapidly expanding undergraduate program and undergraduate teaching laboratories, students, and their advising and mentoring.

Research Faculty

We agree with the committee that research faculty are an essential part of the Department. Also, we expect their role in Bioengineering education to increase with our expanding educational mission. The Committee's recommendation to provide several months of institutional support will be very applicable to half or more of our research faculty. This has COE- and SOM-wide implication. However, we are interested in pursuing this issue further with the Provost if appropriate.

Students

A group of 25 Postdoctoral Researchers in the Department of Bioengineering formed an Association in March 2001. Already, the Department has been working with this group and will try to embrace them as members of the Department and offer them services and opportunities to participate in departmental activities. They commented that even though they are receiving training, they are not "students", but more like "faculty" according to the UW rules and regulations.

Research Directions and Thrusts

Ultrasound is an integral part of the thrust area *Distributed Diagnosis and Home Healthcare (D₂H₂)* and *Medical Imaging and Image-Guided Therapy*. We expect to continue our tradition of excellence in ultrasound research, innovation, training and technology transfer.

The Department of Bioengineering has been very opportunistic in formulating and pursuing new areas, e.g., Molecular Bioengineering in 1989, Engineered Biomaterials in 1996, Biomedical Nanotechnology in

1997 and D₂H₂ in 2000. We will continue to be opportunistic in trying to address new and emerging themes and other areas not included in the five thrusts.

Summary

The Department of Bioengineering at the University of Washington is an outstanding and thriving academic unit. It is very satisfying to see the findings and summary of the Review Committee supporting this. It is the fruit of long-standing innovation, leadership, and hard work of the entire constituency of the Department of Bioengineering. We are particularly thankful to the Review Committee and the Graduate School in that the Central Administration used this report, among other things, in deciding to proceed with the Bioengineering Building. We understand there are many challenges in front of us. With strong support from the UW Administration, however, we are well-positioned and confident that we will be able to achieve our goals of excellence and leadership in Bioengineering education, research, service, clinical applications, and technology transfer.