



April 13, 2015

Andrew Hippisley  
Chair, University of Kentucky Senate Council

Dear Dr. Hippisley,

The Senate Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) discussed via email the proposal by Dean John Y Walz from the College of Engineering that the UK Department of Biomedical Engineering be named the 'F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering.' The Department of Biomedical Engineering is one of seven departments in the College of Engineering.

The reasons for the proposal include the charitable contribution of Dr. Halcomb III to the department, the potential to encourage the practice of donating to academic programs and the enhanced prestige they assume will accrue as a result of the new name.

Dr. F. Joseph Halcomb III recently agreed to provide \$5.8M, in addition to past gifts totaling \$1.2M, in support of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, bringing his total level of support to \$7M, sufficient to have the department named in his honor.

The proposal was accompanied by letters of support from the Department Chair and Chair of the Biomedical Engineering and the chair of the faculty advisory council.

The results of voting were the following:

Biomedical Engineering Faculty

Six of the seven department faculty voted. All votes were in support of naming the department as the 'F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering'.

Engineering Faculty Advisory Council

Eight of the eight members voted. All votes were in support of naming the department as the 'F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering'.

The name change does not appear controversial and the SAOSC recommends approving the name change pending completion of the charitable donation of \$5.8M mentioned above.

Respectfully and on behalf of the SAOSC,

Ernest Bailey, PhD  
Professor  
Chair of SAOC

## COVER PAGE FOR CHANGES TO ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION OR STRUCTURE OF AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT

The Senate’s Academic Organization and Structure Committee (SAOSC) is tasked by the University Senate with the review of proposals to change academic organization or structure. The information needed by the SAOSC for the review of such proposals is set forth in *Senate Rules 3.4.2.A.5*<sup>1</sup>.

The SAOSC has developed a set of guidelines (from the *Senate Rules*) that are intended to ease the task of proposal submission (available at <http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/forms.htm>). As proposal omissions usually cause a delay in the review process, the individual(s) responsible for the proposal is (are) urged to familiarize themselves with these guidelines before submitting their proposals for review. In particular, the individual responsible for the proposal must fill out Sections I, II and III of this form, as well as include statements and documentation that provide a full accounting of the items a - i, below.

- a. Disposition of faculty, staff and resources (financial and physical);
- b. Willingness of the donating units to release faculty lines for transfer to a different educational unit;
- c. Consultation with the faculty of the unit to which the faculty lines are proposed to be transferred;
- d. Consultation with the faculty of educational unit that will be significantly reduced;
- e. Summary of votes and viewpoints (including dissents) of unit faculty and department/college committees;
- f. Ballots, votes expressing support for or against the proposal by unit faculty and staff and committees;
- g. Letters of support or opposition from appropriate faculty and/or administrators; and
- h. Letters of support from outside the University.

### Section I – General Information about Proposal

One- to two-sentence description of change:	Dr. F. Joseph Halcomb III has recently agreed to provide \$5.8M, in addition to past gifts totalling \$1.2M, in support of the Department of Biomedical Engineering, bringing his total level of support to \$7M, sufficient to have the department named in his honor. We propose that the UK Department of Biomedical Engineering be named the 'F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering'.			
Contact person name:	John Y Walz	Phone:	257-1687	Email: john.walz@uky.edu
Administrative position (dean, chair, director, etc.):	Dean			

### Section II – Educational Unit(s) Potentially Impacted by Proposal

Check all that apply and name the specific unit(s).		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Department of:	Biomedical Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	School of:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	College of:	Engineering
<input type="checkbox"/>	Graduate Center for:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Interdisciplinary Instructional Program:	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Multidisciplinary Research Center/Institute:	

### Section III – Type of Proposal

<sup>1</sup> Items a-i are derived from *Senate Rules 3.4.2.A.5*. The Senate Rules in their entirety are available at [http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/rules\\_regulations/index.htm](http://www.uky.edu/Faculty/Senate/rules_regulations/index.htm).)

## COVER PAGE FOR CHANGES TO ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION OR STRUCTURE OF AN EDUCATIONAL UNIT

Check all that apply.	
<i>A. Changes</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Change to the name of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Change to the type of educational unit (e.g., from department to school).
<i>B. Other types of proposals</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Creation of a new educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Consolidation of multiple educational units.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transfer of an academic program to a different educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Transfer of an educational unit to a different reporting unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Significant reduction of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Discontinuation, suspension or closure of an educational unit.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Give a one- or two-sentence description below; a complete description will be in the proposal).

**Section IV is for internal use/guidance.**

### Section IV – Guidance for SAOSC, Senate Council and University Senate

***SAOSC Review of Type A Proposals (Changes to Type of, or to Name of, an Educational Unit)***

- ✓ SAOSC review of proposal.
- ✓ SAOSC recommendation for an additional or joint review by other Senate committee(s) (e.g. Senate's Academic Programs Committee).

***SAOSC Review of Type B Proposals (All Other Changes)***

- ✓ SAOSC review of proposal.
- ✓ SAOSC recommendation for an additional or joint review by other Senate committee(s) (e.g. Senate's Academic Programs Committee).
- ✓ SAOSC review of proposals for creation, consolidation, transfer, closure, discontinuation, or significant reduction and educational unit, or transfer of an academic program to a different educational unit (attach documentation).
- ✓ Program review in past three years (attach documentation).
- ✓ Request to Provost for new program review (attach documentation).
- ✓ Open hearing (attach documentation).
  - SAOSC information must be shared with unit 10 days prior to hearing.
  - Open hearing procedures disseminated.

***Voting by SAOSC, Senate Council and University Senate***

- ✓ Endorse (or do not endorse) the academic organization, reporting, infrastructure, etc.
  - This vote is taken by the SAOSC, SC and Senate for every SAOSC proposal.

## Proposal to Name the Biomedical Engineering Department

### 1) What is the impetus for the proposed change?

F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D., an alumnus of the UK College of Engineering, is strongly committed to the success of our Department of Biomedical Engineering. He has, over the past several years, provided some \$1.2M in support of this program, primarily by funding the Halcomb graduate fellowship. (Biomedical Engineering is a graduate-only department.) Dr. Halcomb has recently agreed to provide an additional \$5.8M for the department, bringing his total level of support to \$7M, which is sufficient to have the department named in his honor. The proposed name is 'F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering'.

The additional \$5.8M in support will be used to create the following support mechanisms:

- An endowed faculty chair in the Department of Biomedical Engineering
- Endowed faculty fellowships
- Endowed graduate student fellowships (these will be in addition to those that are currently being supported by Dr. Halcomb)
- An endowed operating fund to support the Department Chairman.

### 2) What are the benefits and weaknesses of the proposed unit with specific emphasis on the academic merits for the proposed change?

Many of the widely used programmatic rankings are based on peer perceptions of a program. The UK Department of Biomedical Engineering is very new and relatively small and thus is not well-known in the academic community. The change of name of the department conveys a sense of momentum both within and outside of the institution. Particularly among programs at our peer institutions it conveys a clear message that a change for the positive is happening in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Kentucky and that individuals are willing to invest in the long term growth of this program. In addition to this direct impact on the program, there will also be an indirect one. Information such as this name change, and the implicit knowledge that a monetary gift usually prompts such change, may motivate others to make a contribution to help the mission of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Kentucky.

Additional information is provided in the attached impact statement.

- 3) Describe the organization of the current structure and how the proposed structure will be different and better. Current and proposed organizational charts are often helpful in illustrating reporting lines.

The Department of Biomedical Engineering is one of seven departments in the College of Engineering. Like the other Engineering departments, BME is headed by a Chair who reports to the Dean of Engineering. There will be no change in the structure.

- 4) How does the change fit with department, college, and/or university objectives and priorities?

See 2 above. In addition, funding endowed chairs and graduate student fellowships, which will be two of the uses of the naming gift, are priorities in the college's recently-developed strategic plan.

- 5) How does this change better position the proposers relative to state and national peers, as well as University Benchmark Institutions? How does the change help UK meet the goals of its strategic plan?

See 2 and 4 above.

- 6) Who are the key personnel associated with the proposed unit? Provide qualifications of these personnel in a brief form. A complete curriculum vitae for each person is not needed, although pertinent information in tabular format is helpful.

Not applicable. Not proposing a new unit.

- 7) Discuss leadership and selection process for appointing a chair, a director, or interim leader and search process, etc.

Not applicable. Not proposing a new unit.

- 8) What is the function of the faculty/staff associated with the proposed change and how is that relationship defined? Discuss DOE, adjunct, full-time, voting rights, etc.

Faculty/staff roles are not changing.

9) Will the proposed change involve multiple schools or colleges?

No

10) If the proposed change will involve transferring personnel from one unit to another, provide evidence that the donor unit is willing and able to release the personnel.

Not applicable

11) What is the arrangement of faculty associated with the proposed change and how is that relationship defined? Discuss faculty DOE and status as adjunct, tenure track, or tenured. Describe the level of faculty input in the policy-making process including voting rights and advisory.

Faculty roles are not changing.

12) Discuss any implications of the proposal for accreditation by SACS and/or other organizations.

No implications.

13) What is the timeline for key events in the proposed change? Student enrollments, graduates, moved programs, closed courses, new faculty and staff hires, etc.

Once the name change has Senate approval, announcement of the gift and name change will be made public.

14) If the proposal involves degree changes\*, describe how the proposed structure will enhance students' education and make them more competitive. Discuss the impact on current and future students. State assumptions underlying student enrollment growth and describe the plans for student recruitment.

Not applicable

- 15) Include evidence that adequate financial resources exist for the proposed unit to be viable. A general description of the new costs and funding should be provided. A letter from the Provost, Dean, or other relevant administrators may affirm commitment to provide financial resources as appropriate. An exhaustive budget is not expected.

Not applicable – this is not a new unit.

- 16) The proposal should document any faculty votes and departmental or school committee votes as appropriate leading up to this point in the process. The SAOSC recommends that faculty votes be by secret ballot. Include in your documentation of each vote taken the total number of eligible voters and the number that actually voted along with the break-down of the vote into numbers for, against and abstaining. A Chair or Dean may appropriately summarize supporting and opposing viewpoints expressed during faculty discussions.

Letters from the Department Chair and Chair of the Engineering Faculty Advisory Council provide the faculty and council vote. They are:

Biomedical Engineering Faculty – Six of the seven department faculty voted. All votes were in support of naming the department as the ‘F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering’.

Engineering Faculty Advisory Council – Eight of the eight members voted. All votes were in support of naming the department as the ‘F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering’.

- 17) The committee will want to see evidence of academic merit and support from key parties. Letters of support (or opposition) are encouraged from the relevant senior faculty and administrators. Relevant faculty and administrators include those in units directly involved in the proposed change (including existing units from which a new unit may be formed.)

Letters are provided from the following:

Abhijit Patwardhan, Professor and Interim Chair, Department of Biomedical Engineering

Hans Gesund, Professor and Chair, Engineering Faculty Advisory Council

John Y. Walz, Professor and Dean, College of Engineering

- 18) Indicate how the new structure will be evaluated as to whether it is meeting the objectives for its formation. Timing of key events is helpful.

Not applicable

19) Letters of support from outside the University may be helpful in understanding why this change helps people beyond the University.

Not applicable



College of Engineering  
Dept. of Biomedical Engineering  
522 Robotics and Manufacturing Building  
143 Graham Avenue  
Lexington, KY 40506-0108

March 25, 2016

Dr. Andrew Hippisley  
Chair, University Senate Council  
University of Kentucky

Dear Dr. Hippisley:

It is with pleasure that I write this letter in support of changing the name of the Department of Biomedical Engineering to F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering. This change will have a substantial positive impact on our department. A statement that describes the impact of this change is attached.

A meeting of faculty with primary appointment in the department of Biomedical Engineering was convened on March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016. Six out of the seven such faculty in the department were present at the meeting, and all voted unanimously in support of changing the name of the department to F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Please let me know should you have any questions or would like additional information about this letter of support, the impact statement or the record of the vote of the faculty.

Sincerely,

*A.R. Patwardhan*  
Abhijit Patwardhan  
Professor and Interim Chair

CC: Sheila Brothers

## Impact statement

Changing the name of the Department of Biomedical Engineering to F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering and the accompanying substantial monetary gift will have a profoundly positive and long term sustained impact on the Biomedical Engineering enterprise at the University of Kentucky.

Biomedical Engineering at the University Kentucky traces its roots to early research efforts in this area in the 1950s by a small group of faculty. The Graduate Center for Biomedical Engineering was created in 1985, with awarding of graduate degrees in Biomedical Engineering approved in 1988. After becoming a part of the College of Engineering in 2010 the unit was administratively reorganized into a Department of Biomedical Engineering in 2013. From its early days, Biomedical Engineering at the University of Kentucky has operated and grown from a small enterprise to a robust program. Yet, compared to our peer institutions, it is still a program of modest size. At the same time, nationally, Biomedical Engineering has been taking an increasingly prominent and larger place in academic engineering programs. The tangible and intangible benefits that will arise from this gift and changing the name of the department will provide a unique opportunity and needed resources for the Biomedical Engineering program at the University of Kentucky to make a quantum change. *Calling this opportunity a seminal event in the history of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Kentucky is not an overstatement.*

Outlined below are select and specific examples of how these two, i.e., the gift and the name change, will impact the program in the short and the long term.

- 1) Establishment of a Chair in Biomedical Engineering: Offering a position as a named chair is one of the means to attract, retain and reward outstanding faculty. In addition to the financial resources that accompany such position, the prestige associated with it serves as a direct acknowledgement of achievement and excellence of the faculty members. This gift will permit the program to offer the first such named Chair in Biomedical Engineering. Recruitment of a senior faculty member is anticipated by the program in the near future. This component of the gift will permit recruitment of an individual whom the program would not have been able to recruit otherwise. An individual will occupy this chair only for a set period of time, therefore this portion of the gift will provide an immediate impact and also in the years to come.
- 2) Establishment of two Fellowships for junior faculty: Having means to offer named fellowships to junior faculty will substantially enhance the program's ability to recruit from amongst the best and to reward outstanding performance by junior faculty. This gift will provide the program with means to offer two such named fellowships for junior faculty.
- 3) Endowment for departmental operational activities: A portion of the gift will establish an endowment to support departmental activities allowing investment in targeted initiatives that will enhance the educational and research missions of the department. Examples of such initiatives are; travel funds for faculty to meet funding agency officials, visits from potential collaborators, inviting faculty from other institutions for seminars, having visible departmental presence at national and international scientific meetings, student recruitment, and upkeep and updating of material resources used in instructional activities such as those for Biomedical Instrumentation laboratories.
- 4) Endowment for graduate student support: This component of the gift will directly impact the department's ability to recruit top quality graduate students which is critical to maintaining a thriving research portfolio. In addition, this resource will also be very useful in serving as "bridge"

funding for productive students who are making progress towards their degrees but face funding concerns due to circumstances that may be beyond their control.

- 5) Changing of the name of the department: The impact of this factor will be intangible, but equally important. Many of the widely used programmatic rankings are based on peer perceptions of a program. The change of name of the department conveys a sense of momentum both within and outside of the institution. Particularly among programs at our peer institutions it conveys a clear message that a change for the positive is happening in Biomedical Engineering at the University of Kentucky and that individuals are willing to invest in the long term growth of this program. In addition to this direct impact on the program, there will also be an indirect one. Information such as this name change, and the implicit knowledge that a monetary gift usually prompts such change, may motivate others to make a contribution to help the mission of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Kentucky.



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March 25, 2016

Dr. Andrew Hippisley  
Chair, Faculty Senate Council

Dear Dr. Hippisley,

I am writing to offer my strongest support to the renaming of the UK Department of Biomedical Engineering to the *F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering*.

Dr. Halcomb is an alumnus of the UK College of Engineering who is strongly committed to the success of our Department of Biomedical Engineering. Over the past several years, he has provided some \$1.2M in support of this program, primarily by funding the Halcomb graduate fellowship. (Biomedical Engineering is a graduate-only department.) Dr. Halcomb has recently agreed to provide an additional \$5.8M for the department, bringing his total level of support to \$7M, which is sufficient to have the department named in his honor.

The additional \$5.8M in support will be used to create the following support mechanisms:

- An endowed faculty chair in the Department of Biomedical Engineering
- Endowed faculty fellowships
- Endowed graduate student fellowships (these will be in addition to those that are currently being supported by Dr. Halcomb)
- An endowed operating fund to support the Department Chairman.

The impact of this gift on the biomedical engineering department will be transformative. Because of its proximity to the health-related colleges at UK (i.e., medicine, public health, pharmacy, etc.), there is an opportunity for this department to become one of the top such departments in the U.S. Having endowed faculty fellowships and endowed graduate fellowships will allow us to attract the best and brightest faculty and graduate students. Our immediate plan is to use the endowed faculty chair position to attract a prominent educator and researcher to serve as department chairman, as the current chair, Dr. Abhijit Patwardhan, is serving in an interim capacity.

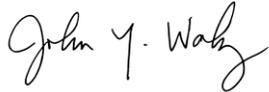
This gift will also have a substantial impact on the College of Engineering. Given its interdisciplinary nature, there are ample opportunities for faculty in biomedical engineering to collaborate with faculty in other engineering departments in areas such as drug delivery, medical imaging, biomechanics, etc. In addition, because there are currently no other named departments in engineering (or even at UK!), other prominent alumni will be able to see the impact that a gift like this can have on the reputation and success of a department. Our hope is thus that this gift will lead to other such naming gifts in the future.

**see blue.**

An Equal Opportunity University

I am extremely excited about the impact that this gift and naming opportunity will have on our program. Naming a department sends a strong signal to the academic community, both at UK and beyond, about both the importance of a program and the level of commitment being made to it. It is, in my opinion, perhaps the most impactful gift that our College has ever received.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Y. Walz". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

John Y. Walz  
Dean

cc: Ms. Sheila Brothers

see blue.

An Equal Opportunity University



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March 28, 2016

Dr. Andrew Hippisley  
Chair, University Senate Council  
University of Kentucky  
Campus

Dear Dr. Hippisley:

The College of Engineering Faculty Advisory Council unanimously endorses the proposal to change the name of the Department of Biomedical Engineering to the "F. Joseph Halcomb III, M.D. Department of Biomedical Engineering".

On behalf of the Council,

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hans Gesund". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Hans Gesund  
Council Chair