

DATE: October 15, 2007

TO: Academic Affairs Committee, Academic Senate

FROM: Denise Wilson, Chair, Graduate Curriculum Committee  
Kimberly Nance, Director of Graduate Studies

RE: Executive Summary -- Bioenergy Sequence within the Master of Science in  
Biological Sciences

This 23-hour sequence brings together existing courses in biology with two new courses, BSC 365, Plant/Microbe Biology and the Environment, and BSC 420, Seminar in Bioenergy Sciences. The new sequence is expected to serve three to five new students per year and will not require any additional resources since the new courses will be taught as part of the regular load of current faculty.

The sequence focuses on questions related to biological and/or environmental aspects of using/engineering plants and microbes for bio-based fuels, issues that are of special urgency in Illinois, and in light of global needs for renewable energy sources, it should prove highly marketable for its graduates.