

RESOLUTION to Change the Name of the PhD in Bioinformatics & Systems Biology to Bioinformatics Data Science

WHEREAS, the Center of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology has expressed the intent to change of the PhD degree to Bioinformatics Data Science, and

WHEREAS, the current name of the PhD in Bioinformatics & Systems Biology suggests a narrow area of focus in systems biology, which is not inclusive of the expanding research in data analytics, and

WHEREAS, the name of the PhD in Bioinformatics Data Science reflects that our educational programs have expanded to encompass areas from developing computational methods, bioinformatics tools, and databases to application in life science and data analytics at the graduate level including:

- Graduate Certificate in Bioinformatics
- Online Graduate Certificate in Applied Bioinformatics
- Masters in Bioinformatics & Computational Biology
- Professional Science Masters in Bioinformatics

WHEREAS, the name PhD in Bioinformatics Data Science is reflective of the new and ongoing scientific research by our Affiliated Faculty from five colleges across campus, which includes:

- Development of mathematical methods and computational tools for gene networks, molecular modeling and metabolic engineering
- Biological text mining and biomedical ontology development
- Bioinformatics cyberinfrastructure, cloud computing and high-performance computing
- Biological databases, semantic data integration and big data analytics
- Health data analytics and computational epidemiology
- Next generation sequencing and genomic, epigenomic, and molecular network analysis to gain insight into biological systems
- Statistical and computational modeling of bioimaging data, and

WHEREAS, the name of the PhD in Bioinformatics Data Science more accurately reflects the interdisciplinary nature of the research our graduate students and their mentors are engaged in, with projects ranging from health informatics, systems biology, energy and environmental studies, translational medicine, and data mining, and

WHEREAS, the new name will be globally more representative of the diversity of our teaching mission, the research conducted by the faculty, our service to the community and the mission of our center “To promote, coordinate, and support interdisciplinary activities,” and

WHEREAS, the name of the PhD in Bioinformatics Data Science reflects collaboration with the newly launched Data Science Institute (DSI) research initiative fostering additional multidisciplinary research providing further synergy among data science research and academic programs, be it therefore

RESOLVED, that the Faculty Senate recommends the name of PhD in Bioinformatics & Systems Biology be changed to PhD in Bioinformatics Data Science.