

**RESOLUTION TO RENAME THE DEPARTMENT OF
BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING AND MECHANICS**

WHEREAS, during the 2023-2024 academic year, the College of Engineering relocated the Engineering Mechanics program from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics to the Department of Mechanical Engineering; and

WHEREAS, the faculty and staff affiliated with the Engineering Mechanics program were also moved to the Department of Mechanical Engineering; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics is now solely focused on biomedical engineering in its course offerings, research, and degrees administered by the Department;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics be renamed the Department of Biomedical Engineering effect January 1, 2026.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the resolution to rename the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics be approved and the proposal forwarded to the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia (SCHEV) for approval.

June 3, 2025

Table of Contents

Institution	1
Nature of Proposed Change	1
Background	1
Purpose of Proposed Change	2
Mission.....	2
Rationale for Proposed Change	2
Academic Programs	3
Resources/Budget	3
Appendices.....	5
Appendix A Current Organizational Structure.....	A-1
Appendix B Proposed Organizational Structure	B-1
Appendix C Academic Units at Peer Institutions.....	C-1

Institution

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University

Nature of Proposed Change

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech) requests approval to change the name of the current Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics to the Department of Biomedical Engineering. The department is located in the College of Engineering. This change will be in name only and will not impact the organizational structure of the university or the college.

Appendix A presents the existing organizational structure of the college.

Appendix B presents the organizational structure of the college after the department name change.

Background

The Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics was established in October 2015 by reorganizing the College of Engineering to merge the Department of Biomedical Engineering and the Department of Engineering Science and Mechanics and establish a new Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics. The purpose of the department was to administer degree and other academic programs that combined the fundamental methods of the engineering science and mechanics field with the growing applications of biomedical engineering.

In fall 2023, the Dean of the College of Engineering met with the faculty of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics to discuss relocating the Engineering Science and Mechanics faculty to another department in the college. The decision was made to relocate the Engineering Science and Mechanics faculty and academic programming to the Department of Mechanical Engineering. This realignment aimed to better reflect industry trends, foster academic synergy, and enhance student opportunities by moving engineering mechanics personnel and programs to another engineering department that is more directly aligned with the discipline's principles. On January 29, 2024, the Executive Vice President and Provost approved the relocation of the engineering science and mechanics graduate programs and associated faculty, staff, and students from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics, effective July 1, 2024.

On June 27, 2024, the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics' biomedical engineering faculty discussed the department's degree programs and the minor and the alignment with the department name. The faculty also discussed the names of departments with similar degree programs at peer institutions. Based on the information reviewed, the faculty voted to propose changing the name of the department from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics to the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

On June 28, 2024, the Department Head of the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics met with the College of Engineering Dean to discuss the possibility of changing the name of the department. The Department Head shared the faculty discussions and the results of the faculty vote with the Dean. During the meeting, the Dean endorsed proposing the name change of the department from the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics to the

Department of Biomedical Engineering. As a result of the process, the Dean determined the college should propose the name change. No further action was taken until fall 2024.

On December 18, 2024, the Executive Vice President and Provost contacted the Associate Vice Provost for Degree Innovation and SCHEV Compliance to assist the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics Department Head in developing a proposal to change the name of the department.

On [DATE], the Virginia Tech Board of Visitors approved the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics' proposal to change its name to the Department of Biomedical Engineering.

Purpose of Proposed Change

The purpose of the proposed organizational change is to change the name of the department to better reflect the academic programming in the department.

Mission

The proposed organizational change will not alter the university's mission. The mission of Virginia Tech states:

Inspired by our land-grant identity and guided by our motto, *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve), Virginia Tech is an inclusive community of knowledge, discovery, and creativity dedicated to improving the quality of life and the human condition within the Commonwealth of Virginia and throughout the world.

The proposed new name aligns with the institution's mission. The proposed name supports Virginia Tech's commitment to "knowledge" and "discovery" given the department's focus is to use engineering principles to help solve medical and biological challenges.

Rationale for Proposed Change

The proposed name change will provide a more accurate description of the department's overall academic content. The proposed name change is needed and will help the department in two ways: 1) align the department's name with its academic and research focus, and 2) align department's name with peer institutions.

Alignment with Department Academic and Research Focus

Degree programs focused on engineering science and mechanics, as well as faculty who research engineering science and mechanics topics, such as solid mechanics, dynamics and control, and fluid mechanics, are no longer in the department. Therefore, the "mechanics" portion of the department's name no longer aligns with the department's academic or research focus.

The degree programs and minor program currently offered in the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics are focused solely on biomedical engineering. Faculty research in the department is focused on topics in the field of biomedical engineering, such as biomaterials, biomechanics, biomedical imaging, cardiovascular engineering, neuroengineering, and tissue

engineering. The proposed name change is needed to ensure the department has a name that accurately reflects its academic and research focus.

Alignment with Peer Institutions

During the spring of 2025, Virginia Tech's SCHEV Compliance staff conducted research to examine SCHEV peer institutions for academic units that offered degree programs and other academic programs similar to the Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics. The SCHEV Compliance staff shared the results with the faculty, noted if a department was present, and reviewed the names of the departments.

Of the 25 SCHEV peer institutions, 25 have academic units that offer similar degree and other academic programs in the field of biomedical engineering. Of those 25 institutions, 15 have a Department of Biomedical Engineering, five (5) have a Department of Bioengineering, and two (2) have a School of Biomedical Engineering. Two (2) institutions have similar academic programming in biomedical engineering that are administratively housed at the college level, and one (1) institution has similar academic programming in biomedical engineering that is housed in a Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering.

The proposed name change is needed to align the department name with similar departments at Virginia Tech's peer institutions.

See Appendix C for a list of academic units at SCHEV peer institutions.

Academic Programs

The proposed name change will not impact the curricular offerings in the department. No degree programs will relocate as a result of the proposed name change. There will be no changes to the existing degree or minor program as a result of the proposed name change. The department offers the following degree and other academic programs:

Bachelor of Science (B.S.) in Biomedical Engineering
 Master of Science (M.S.) in Biomedical Engineering
 Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Biomedical Engineering

Minor in Biomedical Engineering

Resources/Budget

There will be an initial expenditure of approximately \$9,500 to be used for purchasing signage and print materials associated with the proposed name change.

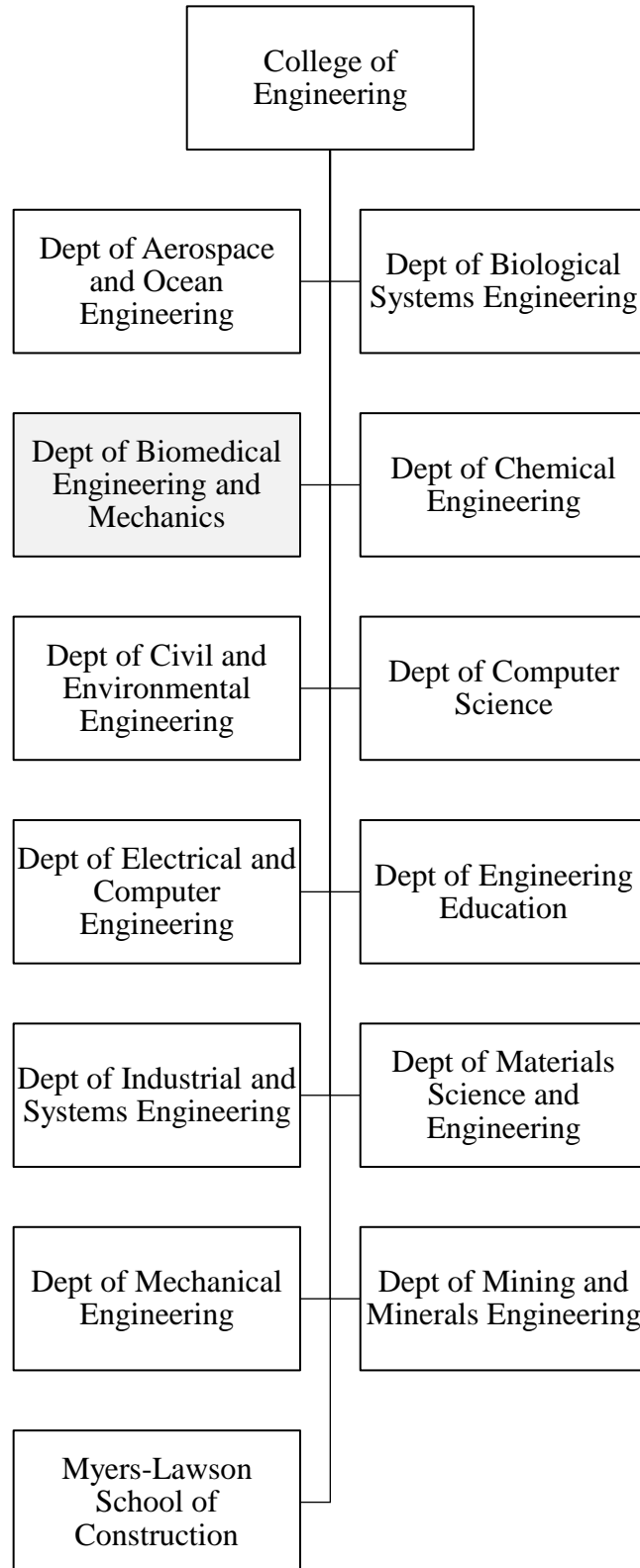
Signage (internal and external to the building)	\$7,000
Print materials (stationery and business cards)	\$2,500
Total	\$9,500

No additional expenses are required to implement the proposed name change. No new positions will be needed to implement the name change. Departmental administration, administrative

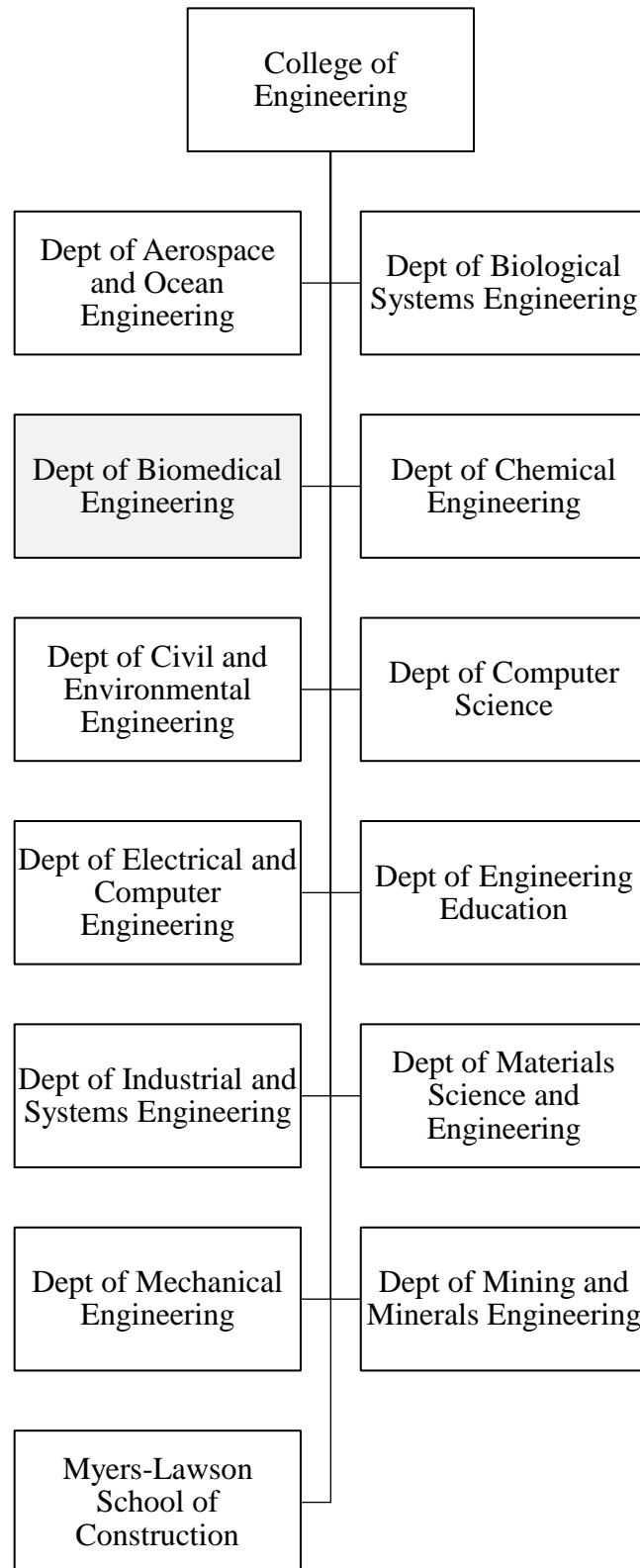
support, and space will not be changed by the proposed name change. Changes to the website will be completed during the normal course of business as internal updates are completed. Virginia Tech and the College of Engineering have adequate and sufficient resources for the proposed organizational change to change the department's name. No new resources will be requested from the state to initiate or sustain the organizational change to rename the Department of Department of Biomedical Engineering and Mechanics.

Appendices

Appendix A
Current Organizational Structure



Appendix B
Proposed Organizational Structure



Appendix C
Academic Units at Peer Institutions

	Institution	Department/Unit
1	Cornell University	Meinig School of Biomedical Engineering
2	Iowa State University	No department (biomedical engineering programming administered at the college level)
3	Michigan State University	Department of Biomedical Engineering
4	North Carolina State University	Department of Biomedical Engineering
5	Ohio State University-Main Campus	Department of Biomedical Engineering
6	Pennsylvania State University-Main Campus	Department of Biomedical Engineering
7	Purdue University-Main Campus	No department Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering
8	Rutgers University-New Brunswick/Piscataway	Department of Biomedical Engineering
9	Stony Brook University	Department of Biomedical Engineering
10	SUNY at Buffalo	Department of Biomedical Engineering
11	Texas A&M University	Department of Biomedical Engineering
12	The University of Texas at Austin	Department of Biomedical Engineering
13	University of California-Berkeley	Department of Bioengineering
14	University of California-Davis	Department of Biomedical Engineering
15	University of Colorado at Boulder	No department (biomedical engineering programming administered at the college level)
16	University of Florida	J. Crayton Pruitt Family Department of Biomedical Engineering
17	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Department of Bioengineering
18	University of Maryland-College Park	Fischell Department of Bioengineering
19	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor	Department of Biomedical Engineering
20	University of Minnesota-Twin Cities	Department of Biomedical Engineering
21	University of Missouri-Columbia	Department of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering
22	University of Pittsburgh-Main Campus	Department of Bioengineering
23	University of Southern California	Alfred E. Mann Department of Biomedical Engineering
24	University of Washington-Seattle Campus	Department of Bioengineering
25	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Department of Biomedical Engineering