

To: Bruce Schafer, Executive Director  
ETIC

From: Edward W. Thompson, Dean, OGI  
OHSU

Robert D. Dryden, Dean, CECS  
PSU

Date: April 14, 2004

Subject: Joint Statement – Biomedical Engineering Proposals

---

You have asked for statements from EOU, OGI, and PSU regarding the relationships among our biomedical proposals in order to support the decision-making process of ETIC voting members. This note is intended to meet that objective from OGI and PSU.

The proposal from EOU shares little common ground with the PSU and OGI proposals. It relates in a significant way to rural economic development, technology, and workforce issues. Our proposals deal with the Portland metropolitan area, education, and research. Based on these distinctions, our statement deals with the two proposals that share common elements.

The proposals from PSU and OGI are highly complementary. PSU proposes to develop new courses, primarily at the undergraduate level, using a multidisciplinary approach involving Electrical and Computer Engineering and Mechanical Engineering as well as the sciences (Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics). Students involved in these areas could pursue graduate education at PSU or OGI. Significant potential exists for collaborative PSU-OGI research. OGI's proposal builds on existing, accredited degree programs and has research agenda which relates directly to OGI strengths and emerging fields.

The potential of these investments might be enhanced through a formal collaborative mechanism. Such an approach might yield benefits in terms of cross-listing courses, joint research proposals, etc. At this point, we feel that the level of interinstitutional collaboration is expanding through informal channels and we would like to continue in that mode. We are not opposed to a formal mechanism. It is our preference to continuing informal collaboration at this point. A formal mechanism could be adopted later but should be oriented to solving specific problems or issues.