

## MEMO

**To:** Dean William Graves, Graduate College

**From:** D. Raj Raman, Morrill Professor and DOGE, BR C Graduate Minor

**Date:** October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018

**Re:** Discontinuation of Graduate Minor in Biorenewable Chemicals (BR C)

The graduate minor in Biorenewable Chemicals (BR C) was created shortly after the inception of the NSF Engineering Research Center for Biorenewable Chemicals (CBiRC), a 10-year, \$40M project led by Iowa State University, that began in 2008 and which ended this past September. CBiRC's multi-disciplinary structure was used as the basis for the structure of the graduate minor. Although one of the core courses for the minor (BR C 507 *Technology-Led Entrepreneurship in Biorenewables*) was heavily subscribed, the overall minor was not: We had four students total opt for the BR C minor, with the last graduate completing the degree in fall, 2014.

The BR C graduate minor appears to have served its intended purpose, and taking it off the books seems appropriate at this time. The former CBiRC Director (Distinguished Professor Brent Shanks) and Deputy Director (Professor Basil Nikolau) are in agreement with this recommendation, which I am making as DOGE of the program.

Thanks to guidance from ISU Grad College Staff (Judy Strand), we understand that such discontinuation requires your approval, followed by approval from the Provost's office. This memo is seeking such approval. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the request, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your time in considering this matter.

No objection

William R. Graves 10/31/18