

Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2026

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Microbiology
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Microbiology - D0350
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Graduate
Course Number/Catalog 6891
Course Title Progress in Biotechnology
Transcript Abbreviation Progress Biotech
Course Description Students will gain insight into real-world applied molecular sciences and biotechnology research through seminars presented by industry scientists
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 0.5

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 12 Week, 8 Week, 7 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory
Repeatable Yes
Allow Multiple Enrollments in Term Yes
Max Credit Hours/Units Allowed 2.5
Max Completions Allowed 5
Course Components Seminar
Grade Roster Component Seminar
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites None
Exclusions
Electronically Enforced No

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 26.0502
Subsidy Level Doctoral Course
Intended Rank Masters, Doctoral

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Gain insight into real-world applied molecular sciences and biotechnology research being conducted at companies
- Be exposed to career paths and opportunities in the applied molecular sciences and biotechnology

Content Topic List

- Biweekly seminars on various topics in biotechnology presented by to-be-determined industry-leading professional scientists

Sought Concurrence

No

Attachments

- M6891_Cover letter.pdf
(Cover Letter. Owner: Ruiz, Natividad)
- M6891_Syllabus_2.pdf
(Syllabus. Owner: Ruiz, Natividad)
- MICRBIO6891_PLG.pdf: Learning goals mapping
(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Ruiz, Natividad)
- Biomedical Engineering Concurrence.pdf: Concurrence Biomedical Engineering
(Concurrence. Owner: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal)
- Concurrence requests.pdf: Concurrence FABE & Pharmacy
(Concurrence. Owner: Ruiz, Natividad)
- M6891_Cover letter_Resubmission.pdf: Revision cover letter
(Cover Letter. Owner: Ruiz, Natividad)
- M6891_Syllabus_rev_2025-09-18_CLEAN.docx: Revised syllabus -clean copy
(Syllabus. Owner: Ruiz, Natividad)
- M6891_Syllabus_rev_2025-09-18.docx: Revised syllabus-marked copy
(Syllabus. Owner: Ruiz, Natividad)

Comments

- Please see Subcommittee feedback email sent 9/8/25. *(by Neff, Jennifer on 09/08/2025 02:04 PM)*

COURSE REQUEST
6891 - Status: PENDING

Last Updated: Vankeerbergen, Bernadette
Chantal
10/15/2025

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Ruiz, Natividad	05/19/2025 01:20 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Ruiz, Natividad	05/19/2025 01:21 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	08/11/2025 10:23 AM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Neff, Jennifer	09/08/2025 02:04 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Ruiz, Natividad	10/14/2025 06:12 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Ruiz, Natividad	10/14/2025 06:13 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal	10/15/2025 10:41 AM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Neff, Jennifer Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Steele, Rachel Lea	10/15/2025 10:41 AM	ASCCAO Approval



October 14, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for reviewing our proposal of **MICRBIO 6891: Progress in Biotechnology**.

We have modified the course syllabus in response to the review by the Natural and Mathematical Sciences Subcommittee of the ASC Curriculum Committee. In this revision, we have enclosed marked (text highlighted in cyan) and unmarked copies of the modified syllabus.

Below are our responses to the review:

- **Contingency:** Syllabi statements on SLDS and Intellectual Diversity were missing.
 - Response: The syllabus has been modified to include links to the Office of Undergraduate Education pages listing all required and optional statements (page 6).
- **Contingency:** Request to seek concurrence from the Department of Food, Agriculture, and Biological Engineering and the College of Pharmacy.
 - Response: We sought concurrence from the Department of Food, Agriculture, and Biological Engineering and from the College of Pharmacy on 9/25/2025 via email (see attachments). We requested a response by 10/10/25 and indicated that no response would be interpreted as concurrence. We have not received any responses as of 10/14/2025, which means we have been granted concurrence.
- **Recommendation:** Recommend that the instructor provide more information on the excused make-up policy and implementation.
 - Response: The following statement was added to page 1: "Students are required to complete the attendance sign-in sheet at the start of class." Additional instructions for replacement seminars and the replacement assignment (for graduate students that miss class) are now included on page 2. The revised text now reads: "Students that miss a seminar due to an excused absence will be required to attend a departmental seminar given by an external speaker within the same term. They will email the instructor for approval of the replacement seminar (date, seminar series, speaker) within 7 days of missing class. The make-up cannot be another seminar class that the student is enrolled in. For example, a Microbiology graduate student enrolled in this class may not use Micro 8899 or 7899; MCDB / OSBP students may not use the MLS seminar series; etc. The student will write a two-page summary of the seminar (double-spaced) as a make-up assignment due by email to the instructor within 7 days of the replacement seminar. Graduate students may miss a maximum of 1 seminar due to an approved excused absence. Additional absences will result in a grade of (U). Failure to attend the



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replacement seminar and submit the assignment before the end of scheduled classes of the semester will also result in a grade of (U)."

We hope that these modifications address the issues raised by the Subcommittee. Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thank you for your consideration.

Natividad Ruiz

Professor of Microbiology
Vice Chair for Teaching & Undergraduate Affairs

From: [Ruiz, Natividad](#)
To: [Shearer, Scott](#)
Subject: Concurrence request for MICRBIO 4891 & 6891
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 2:14:53 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[M4891_Syllabus_rev_2025-09-22.pdf](#)
[M6891_Syllabus_rev_2025-09-18.pdf](#)
[concurrence_request_form_M4891.pdf](#)
[concurrence_request_form_M6891.pdf](#)

Dear Dr. Shearer,

The Department of Microbiology has developed two new seminar courses focused on biotechnology. We are seeking concurrence from your department, and I hope you can assist us.

As you can see from the attached syllabi, MICRBIO 4891/6891 are seminar courses designed for undergraduate and graduate students, respectively. Both courses will share the seminar series presented by external speakers. The graduate version will only require students to attend seminars, while the undergraduate course will demand more work and additional meetings. This is why we had to split the offering into two courses.

I have attached the concurrence request forms for each course, but you could reply by email if you prefer. I kindly request a response by Friday, October 10. No response will be interpreted as concurrence. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Natacha



Natividad Ruiz, PhD

Professor
Vice Chair for Teaching and Undergraduate Affairs
Department of Microbiology
264 Aronoff Lab Bldg
318 W 12th Ave., Columbus OH 43210
614-292-3426 Office | 614-292-4129 Lab | 614-292-8120 Fax

From: [Ruiz, Natividad](#)
To: [Newman, Leslie](#); [Fuchs, James](#)
Subject: Concurrence request for Microbiology 4891 & 6891
Date: Thursday, September 25, 2025 2:23:55 PM
Attachments: [M4891 Syllabus rev 2025-09-22.pdf](#)
[image001.png](#)
[M6891 Syllabus rev 2025-09-18.pdf](#)
[concurrence request form M4891.pdf](#)
[concurrence request form M6891.pdf](#)

Dear Drs. Fuchs and Newman,

Our colleague Dr. Kou-San Ju has developed two new Microbiology seminar courses focused on biotechnology. Our Department of Microbiology is seeking concurrence from the College of Pharmacy, and I hope you can assist us.

As you can see from the attached syllabi, MICRBIO 4891/6891 are seminar courses designed for undergraduate and graduate students, respectively. Both courses will share the seminar series presented by external speakers. The graduate version will only require students to attend seminars, while the undergraduate course will demand more work and additional meetings. This is why we had to split the offering into two courses.

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Best regards,

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Microbiology 6891

Progress in Biotechnology

The Ohio State University | [Term YEAR] | 0.5 Unit | Lecture
[Location] | Wd [11:30-12:25 pm]

Description

The modern biotechnology industry has advances basic discoveries into innovations throughout medicine, agriculture, energy, and consumer products that have improved our lives. These advancements are a continuing source of new solutions to address modern challenges of human health, the environment, and sustainability. In this class, graduate students will gain real-world insight into the applied molecular sciences and biotechnology through seminars given by industry-leading professional scientists.

Course Director

Kou-San Ju, PhD
Department of Microbiology, College of Arts & Sciences
Division of Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmacognosy, College of Pharmacy
290 Aronoff Laboratory
Email: ju.109 -at- osu.edu
Office hours: TBA

Prerequisites:

All graduate students are welcome to enroll.

Format

The course is 100% in-person and will take place in the classroom at scheduled times.

Graduate students will enroll in 0.5 units (S/U) and are required to attend all seminar presentations, the first organizational class, and the final summary class.

Assignments and Grading

Attendance at the introductory discussion lecture, all seminars, and summary discussion lecture is required to earn a (S) grade for the class.

Exams

There are no exams for this class.

Attendance and Participation

Seminars will be given by industry-leading professional scientists in the applied molecular sciences and biotechnology. Students are required to complete the attendance sign-in sheet at the start of class. All students are expected to attend every seminar, arrive on time and participate in active listening. As presentations from industry professionals are proprietary, you are expected to take your own notes. At the end of every seminar, speakers will welcome questions from the students and general audience.

Excused absences

This course is based on experiential learning. Attendance at all seminars is required to achieve the learning objectives of the class.

Excused absences are allowed for severe illness; quarantine; death of family member; OSU athletic commitment; professional interview that cannot be rescheduled; religious observation; military service commitment. Attendance at a scientific conference is also an acceptable absence for graduate students. In all

cases, documentation is required. Instructor must be notified in writing before class if you will be absent. For scheduled absences, 14 days advance notice is required for approval. Oversleeping, forgetfulness, having exams on the same day for another class, working in a research lab or other job, are not excused absences.

Students that miss a seminar due to an excused absence will be required to attend a departmental seminar given by an external speaker within the same term. They will email the instructor for approval of the replacement seminar (date, seminar series, speaker) within 7 days of missing class. The make-up cannot be another seminar class that the student is enrolled in. For example, a Microbiology graduate student enrolled in this class may not use Micro 8899 or 7899; MCDB / OSBP students may not use the MLS seminar series; etc. The student will write a two-page summary of the seminar (double-spaced) as a make-up assignment due by email to the instructor within 7 days of the replacement seminar. Graduate students may miss a maximum of 1 seminar due to an approved excused absence. Additional absences will result in a grade of (U). Failure to attend the replacement seminar and submit the assignment before the end of scheduled classes of the semester will also result in a grade of (U).

Proper citations are expected to prevent plagiarism (academic misconduct) -- examples will be provided in the rubric. Students are encouraged to speak with the instructor if there are questions regarding the use of citations. Reports will be scanned through Turnitin Feedback Studio to detect academic plagiarism. The use of generative AI is also prohibited.

Classroom Etiquette

Electronic devices should be silenced during seminars. Computers and tablets can be used during lectures as long as they do not distract other students. Cellular phones should be stored away at all times. Recording lectures (audio and/or video) is prohibited without the express consent of the instructor or seminar speaker.

Course Communications and Email Policy

Students are responsible for all announcements made in class, posted on the course website (Carmen), or communicated by email. Questions about class material should not be submitted by e-mail and they will not be answered. Instead, please ask questions before or after seminar, or schedule an appointment for an individual meeting.

Learning Outcomes

Graduate students that successfully complete this course will:

- Gain insight into real-world applied molecular sciences and biotechnology research being conducted at companies
- Be exposed to career paths and opportunities in the applied molecular sciences and biotechnology

LECTURE SCHEDULE

This is a tentative schedule and is subject to change.

Date	Day	Week	Class
1/14	Wd	1	Introduction and Organization
1/21	Wd	2	
1/28	Wd	3	Seminar 1 TBA
2/4	Wd	4	
2/11	Wd	5	Seminar 2 TBA
2/18	Wd	6	
2/25	Wd	7	Seminar 3 TBA
3/4	Wd	8	
3/11	Wd	9	Seminar 4 TBA Spring Break – No Class
3/18	Wd	10	
3/25	Wd	11	Seminar 5 TBA
4/1	Wd	12	
4/8	Wd	13	Seminar 6 TBA
4/15	Wd	14	
4/22	Wd	15	Summary Discussion

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Instructor feedback and response time

I am providing the following list to give you an idea of my intended availability throughout the course. (Remember that you can call **614-688-HELP** at any time if you have a technical problem.)

- **Email:** I will generally respond to emails within 48 hours on days when class is in session at the University. Emails are reserved for general questions regarding logistical aspects of the class. Questions on course content and grading should be asked in-person before, during, or after class, or during office hours. All emails should have an accurate and descriptive subject line ("Question about M6891 schedule"), begin with a salutation ("e.g., "Prof. Ju"), and conform to standard English with proper punctuation and capitalization.

Discussion and Communication Guidelines

The following are my expectations for how we should communicate as a class. Above all, please remember to be respectful and thoughtful.

- **Writing style:** While there is no need to participate in class discussions as if you were writing a research paper, you should remember to write using good grammar, spelling, and punctuation. A more conversational tone is fine for non-academic topics.
- **Tone and civility:** We will maintain a supportive learning community where everyone feels safe and where people can disagree amicably. Remember that sarcasm does not always come across online.
- **Citations:** When we have academic discussions, please cite your sources to back up what you say. For the textbook or other course materials, list at least the title and page numbers. For online sources, include a link.

Plagiarism and Academic Misconduct

Academic integrity is essential to maintaining an environment that fosters excellence in teaching, research, and other educational and scholarly activities. Thus, The Ohio State University and the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) expect that all students have read and understand the University's Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/>), and that all students will complete all academic and scholarly assignments with fairness and honesty. Students must recognize that failure to follow the rules and guidelines established in the University's Code of Student Conduct and *this* syllabus may constitute "Academic Misconduct."

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct (COAM) to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed, illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Plagiarism is presenting another person's words, ideas, or sequence of arguments as your own without attribution. We will discuss what constitutes plagiarism and how to cite sources properly in this course. If at any point, however, you have a question about this, please ask. If you are tempted to plagiarize or find yourself using material from the Internet or any other source and trying to pass it off as your own, stop working on the assignment and contact the instructors. It is better to submit work late than to violate the Code of Student Conduct. It is the instructors' responsibility to report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487), and the professor and discussion section leaders take this responsibility seriously. For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (<http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/csc/>).

The Ohio State University's Code of Student Conduct (Section 3335-23-04) defines academic misconduct as: "Any activity that tends to compromise the academic integrity of the University, or subvert the educational process." Examples of academic misconduct include (but are not limited to) plagiarism, collusion (unauthorized collaboration), copying the work of another student, and possession of unauthorized materials during an examination. *Ignorance of the University's Code of Student Conduct is never considered an "excuse" for academic misconduct, so I recommend that you review the Code of Student Conduct and, specifically, the sections dealing with academic misconduct.* For more information see: <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

If we suspect that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, we are obligated by University Rules to report suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the University's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the University.

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI)

Revisions to the Code of Student Conduct went into effect on Jan, 1, 2024, after a review by the Council on Student Affairs. Among the revisions is an updated definition of academic misconduct that clarifies that the unauthorized use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) systems or similar technologies to complete academic activities is prohibited conduct. Commonly used GenAI tools include including ChatGPT, Sudowrite and others. **For this course, the use of GenAI tools on submitted and graded material is prohibited.**

With this, we understand that GenAI tools have a future in education and the workplace. Because of this I want to suggest places where GenAI may be of use in the course, and the known limitations of using GenAI. GenAI can be useful to students to help summarize and clarify long and difficult texts or topics, especially topics that have been well studied and written about extensively. Please be aware of the many known limitations of GenAI: it can generate incomplete, inaccurate, or false information, GenAI is prone to hallucination where it connects things that have not real connection, citations generated by GenAI might be inaccurate or completely made-up, GenAI will plagiarize text without proper attribution as required by the Code of Student Conduct, answers are prone to biases. When using GenAI, it is important to recognize these known limitations and intervene with your own reading and interpretation.

Copyright Protection

The materials used in connection with this course are subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Weather or Other Short-Term Closing

Should in-person classes be cancelled, I will notify you as to which alternative methods of teaching will be offered to ensure continuity of instruction for this class. Communication will be email, CarmenCanvas, or other mode of communication.

ADDITIONAL IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Additional statements on Religious Accommodations, Disability Statement, Intellectual Diversity, Grievances and Solving Problems, and Creating an Environment Free from Harassment, Discrimination, and Sexual Misconduct are provided [here](#).

Additional statements on Counseling and Consultation Services / Mental Health and Military-Connected Students are provided found [here](#).

Mapping Microbiology 6891 to Ph.D. Degree Program Learning Goals

Microbiology Ph.D. Degree Program Learning Goals (PLGs)

PhD graduates of Microbiology should be able to:

1. Demonstrate a broad base of knowledge in several areas, including microbial physiology, genetics, biochemistry, and pathogenesis.
2. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge in an area of interest.
3. Make an original and substantial contribution to the field, as indicated by at least one first-author publication.
4. Effectively communicate science through oral and written presentations to both scientific and general audiences.

Microbiology 6891 Learning Outcomes Mapped to Ph.D. Degree Program Learning Goals

1. Gain insight into real-world applied molecular sciences and biotechnology research being conducted at companies (**PLG 1 & 2: Intermediate**)
2. Be exposed to career paths and opportunities in the applied molecular sciences and biotechnology (**PLG 2: Intermediate**)

From: [Childers, Rachel](#)
To: [Ruiz, Natividad](#)
Subject: FW: Concurrence request
Date: Friday, June 13, 2025 12:28:18 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[image003.png](#)

We are all good from BME for concurrence! Let me know if there is anything else you need from us.

Thanks,
Rachel

Rachel Childers, Ph.D.

Professional Practice Associate Professor & Director of Undergraduate Education

Department of Biomedical Engineering

Fontana Labs 4100B, 140 W 19th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210

Childers.73@osu.edu | 614.247.6681

(She/Her) | [Student Hours Link](#)



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From: Senitko, Melanie <senitko.1@osu.edu>

Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 9:54 AM

To: Devina Purmessur Walter <Devina.Purmessur@osumc.edu>; Childers, Rachel
<childers.73@osu.edu>

Cc: Matyas, Cory <matyas.3@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: Concurrence request

Looks good to me as well.

Thanks!

Mel



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Melanie A. Senitko, MA

Graduate Program Coordinator

The Ohio State University

College of Engineering

Department of Biomedical Engineering

2124K Fontana Labs

140 W 19th Ave, Columbus, OH 43210

614.292.7152 Office

senitko.1@osu.edu / bme.osu.edu

Pronouns: she/her

*Shared Values in Action: At Ohio State, we demonstrate our **Shared Values** through our actions.*

From: Purmessur, Devina <Devina.Purmessur@osumc.edu>

Sent: Friday, June 13, 2025 9:30 AM

To: Childers, Rachel <childers.73@osu.edu>

Cc: Senitko, Melanie <senitko.1@osu.edu>; Matyas, Cory <matyas.3@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: Concurrence request

Hi Rachel,

Thanks so much for sharing. I don't see any issues from my end – Mel do you have any addition thoughts or comments?

Thanks again,

Devina

Devina Purmessur (Walter), PhD

Associate Professor and Director of Graduate studies

College of Engineering Innovation Scholar

Department of Biomedical Engineering

Department of Orthopaedics

The Ohio State University

Mars G. Fontana, Room 3016

140 W. 19th Ave, Columbus, OH 43210

(office 3016) | (lab 3155)

Email: purmessurwalter.1@osu.edu and devina.purmessur@osumc.edu

<https://stl.engineering.osu.edu/>

Note: You may be receiving this email outside of normal working hours. While it suits me to email now, I do not expect a response or action from you outside of your own working hours.

From: Childers, Rachel <childers.73@osu.edu>

Sent: Wednesday, June 11, 2025 1:24 PM

To: Purmessur, Devina <Devina.Purmessur@osumc.edu>

Cc: Senitko, Melanie (OSU) <senitko.1@osu.edu>; Matyas, Cory (OSU) <matyas.3@osu.edu>

Subject: FW: Concurrence request

Hi Devina,

Looping you in for the grad studies side. I don't see any concurrence issues for the Microbio/Biotechnology course from the undergrad side. I assume the same for grad side, but wanted to check with you first.

Best,
Rachel

Rachel Childers, Ph.D.

Professional Practice Associate Professor & Director of Undergraduate Education
Department of Biomedical Engineering
Fontana Labs 4100B, 140 W 19th Ave., Columbus, Ohio 43210
Childers.73@osu.edu | 614.247.6681

(She/Her) | [Student Hours Link](#)



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

From: Ruiz, Natividad <ruiz.82@osu.edu>
Sent: Monday, June 9, 2025 8:00 AM
To: Childers, Rachel <childers.73@osu.edu>
Subject: Concurrence request

Dear Dr. Childers,

The Department of Microbiology has developed three new courses focused on biotechnology. We are seeking concurrence from your department, and I hope you can assist us.

As you can see from the attached syllabi, MICRBIO 4800 is a lecture course, while MICRBIO 4891/6891 are seminar courses. Please note that 4891/6891 will share the seminar series presented by external speakers. The graduate version will only require students to attend seminars, while the undergraduate course will demand more work and additional meetings. This is why we had to split the offering into two courses.

I have attached the concurrence request forms for each course. I kindly request a response by June 27. No response will be interpreted as concurrence.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you for your time.

Natacha



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

Natividad Ruiz, PhD
Professor
Vice Chair for Teaching and Undergraduate Affairs
Department of Microbiology
264 Aronoff Lab Bldg
318 W 12th Ave., Columbus OH 43210
614-292-3426 Office | 614-292-4129 Lab | 614-292-8120 Fax

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Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Natacha



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Best regards,

Natacha



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Vice Chair for Teaching and Undergraduate Affairs
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