July 5, 2023

To: Heng Yin  
Chair, R’Courses Governing Board

From: Sang-Hee Lee  
Chair, Riverside Division

RE: Proposed Revised R’Courses Policy

Dear Heng,

I write to provide the consultative feedback on the subject proposed revisions to R’Courses Policy. During their June 26, 2023 meeting, Executive Council discussed the proposal and the attached comments from tasked committees.

Please review the attached comments and critiques in consideration of a revised proposal for submission and review.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Sang-Hee Lee

Cc: Beth Beatty, Senate Analyst  
Cherysa Cortez, Senate Executive Director
June 1, 2023

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
    Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Victor G. J. Rodgers, Chair  
      BCOE Executive Committee

RE: Proposed Revisions to R’Courses Policy

Dr. Lee,

The BCOE Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed changes to R’Courses Policy to essentially include graduate students in the program. Although student leadership states that the proposed changes will not conflict with union contracts, we recommend that the proposers should: 1) consult with associate dean of student success (VPDUE office) and academic resource center (ARC) director for R’ course, and 2) consult with UCR HR-labor relations. In addition, it should be clear how undergraduates will register complaints about the course including concerns with pedagogy and evaluation.
In its 5/15/2023 meeting, CAP discussed the proposed policy amendments that allow graduate students to teach R’Courses as well. The committee commended the effort in extending teaching opportunities and professional development experience for our graduate students. The committee also noted that R’Courses supervision is considered as an Undergraduate Mentorship activity in the faculty mentor’s merit and promotion file under the existing and revised policies. Below are our comments and suggestions:

- Since the graduate student teaching an R’Course will be listed as the instructor of record, it is advisable to emphasize that they must have a master’s degree as the minimum academic qualification.

- As for undergraduate mentorship, the Graduate Advisor/Dissertation Chair should be given credit for Graduate Mentorship on R’Courses in their merit and promotion files.
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY

May 17, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
   Riverside Division

From: Lorenzo Mangolini, Chair
       Committee on Educational Policy

RE: Proposed Revision to R’Courses Policy

The Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) reviewed the proposed revisions to the R’Courses policy at their May 5, 2023 meeting. Some members were in favor of opening R’Courses to graduate students, as this would provide a good opportunity for professional development. Still, many members expressed serious concerns about the proposal. The committee noted that the letter of support from the GSA dates back to 2019, and that an updated letter should be included in the proposal. Members were concerned about how the inclusion of graduate students would go against the “peer teaching” model at the core of R’Courses offerings, since undergraduate students would not perceive graduate students as peers. Member were concerned about how instructing R’Courses could potentially challenge the balance of the students’ work, research, and progression in degree programs. Finally, serious concerns were raised about the apparent conflict between the concept of instructing R’Courses without compensation and the recently negotiated union contract.
June 5, 2023

TO:          Sang-Hee Lee, Chair  
             Riverside Division of the Academic Senate  

FROM:     John Kim, Chair  
               CHASS Executive Committee  

RE:    Revising R’Courses policy to allow graduate students to develop and facilitate  
        R’Courses to undergraduate students  

Having reviewed the memo and related documents regarding proposed changes to UCR’s  
R’Courses policy, we are in general supportive of the changes, which enhance curricular  
diversity at UCR and respond to a direct request from the Graduate Student Assembly  
(December 16, 2019), but had the following suggestions, questions, and concerns:  

- Although we recognize that pedagogical training and curriculum development can fall  
  within graduate students’ professional development within their capacity as students, we  
  are concerned about how this change may further university practices of extracting labor  
  without providing fair compensation. The request from the Graduate Student Assembly  
  (Appendix 3) notes potential challenges associated with unpaid labor and specifically  
  suggests the need to clarify proposed practices with the TA union. We strongly concur  
  with the latter point, and believe that a report on this consultation should have been  
  included in the final draft of the proposal.  
- We appreciate that there are multiple levels of quality review both before the R’Course  
  occurs and when it is offered. We are concerned, however, that the plan to bring graduate  
  students who teach an R’Course into the faculty iEval system does not engage with the  
  significant limitations and problems of that iEval system. The proposal to have the  
  graduate student R’Course instructor also “submit a self-assessment at the conclusion of  
  their course” may provide useful context that could be incorporated into a broader  
  teaching assessment, but it is not clear how this self-assessment will be used.  
- The Qualtrics surveys for proposing new R’Courses (Appendices 4 and 5) mention that  
  the short course title must be less than 25 characters per Banner rules. Other curriculum
paperwork sets the limit at 30 characters and we call the R’Course committee’s attention to this detail.

- The new Qualtrics survey for graduate students proposing R’Courses (Appendix 5) ends with “*Note: We will use your Course Description as the advertising for your course, so make sure it is engaging and will get students interested in your topic. Remember, these are 1-unit introductory or survey courses and are meant to be engaging, not super rigorous! Have fun with it!” We recommend removing the statement about rigor, which promotes a false binary between engagement and rigor, and believe that existing curriculum review processes can effectively address situations where a course proposal misaligns with relevant curricular norms.

- Much of the framing for the new proposal involves graduate students needing more experience as primary instructors for professional reasons, with the points outlined in the policy largely about ensuring that the graduate students follow rules and perform well. These process and quality control details are important, but missing in the policy is recognition that PhD students can design and offer excellent courses that would not otherwise be taught at UCR, and that this is valuable service to the university’s mission. We encourage more intentional engagement with the latter and related points.
May 25, 2023

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Bahram Mobasher, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: Response to [Campus Review] Proposed Revised R’Courses Policy

Dear Sang-Hee,

CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has some comments we would like to bring to the attention of the Senate.

1. One aspect that might need additional clarification is implementing the proposed policy regarding graduate students teaching these courses. We are unsure of the funding mechanisms for such arrangements, as it appears that GSRs would not cover these courses, nor would TA funds. Engaging with the Union to gather their input on these matters may be beneficial, as they may raise similar issues.

Sincerely,

Bahram Mobasher, Ph.D
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences
COMMITTEE ON COURSES

May 5, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
    Riverside Division

From: Aerika Loyd, Chair
    Committee on Courses

Re: Proposed Revisions to R’Courses Policy

The Committee on Courses reviewed proposed revisions to the R’Courses policy at their May 3, 2023 meeting on behalf of their charge of courses and instruction.

The Committee recommends that the proposal be updated to clearly define the faculty mentor policy for undergraduate and graduate instructors as it was unclear how the policies differ for the two levels.

Additionally, the Committee recommends that an updated letter from GSA be included in the proposal to document if the Association is currently still supportive of the addition of graduate students as R’Courses instructors given the revised union contract and that the previous letter was from AY 2019-2020.
June 2, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Chair
    Riverside Division

From: Christiane Weirauch, Chair
    Graduate Council

Re: [Campus Review] Proposed Revised R’Courses Policy

Graduate Council discussed the Proposed Revised R’Courses Policy at their May 18, 2023 meeting and was supportive but was concerned by the revised policy naming graduate students as “instructor of record” for R’Courses. The instructor of record should be the faculty member as it is with undergraduate students who teach R’Courses. The R’Courses policy language for the instructor of record should be the same as the language used for undergraduate students teaching R’Courses. If this is simply so graduate students can have access to iEval, and not to be interpreted as an instructor of record with Academic Senate rights, it should be stated in the policy. Perhaps instead the policy can refer to graduate students as “instructor in Banner”.

June 1, 2023

To: Sang-Hee Lee, Division Chair of the UCR Division of the Academic Senate &
Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of the UCR Academic Senate

From: Raquel M. Rall, Ph.D., Faculty Chair of the School of Education Executive Committee

Subject: [Campus Review] Proposal: Proposed Revised R’Courses Policy

The members of the SOE Executive Committee reviewed the[Campus Review] Proposal: Proposed Revised R’Courses Policy. Comments were solicited at our monthly meeting and via email. No objections or comments were offered except notes indicating that the SOE FEC is supportive of this revised R’Courses policy.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Sincerely,

Raquel M. Rall, Ph.D.
Faculty Executive Committee Chair 2022-2025
School of Education
University of California, Riverside
June 26, 2023

TO: Sang-Hee Lee, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division
FROM: Marcus Kaul, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine
SUBJECT: Response to [Campus Review] Proposal: Proposed Revised R’Courses Policy

Dear Sang-Hee,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the Proposal for Proposed Revised R’Courses Policy.

The Committee is in agreement of opening up R’Courses to graduate students which is already in place for undergraduate students. This proposal will allow graduate students the benefit and opportunity for UCR official teaching on record.

We approve of the proposal and have no additional comments.

Yours sincerely,

Marcus Kaul, Ph.D.
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee School of Medicine