Received 3/12/24
Academic Senate

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
COLLEGE OF NATURAL AND AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES

REPORT TO THE RIVERSIDE DIVISION
May 21, 2024

To Be Adopted

Proposed Changes to Regulations NR 3.05

PRESENT:

~~NR03.05 Life Sciences Core curriculum~~

~~(En 30 May 96)~~

~~NR03.05.01 All students who are life sciences majors (Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Biology, Botany and Plant Sciences, Entomology, Cell Biology and Neuroscience) will complete a uniform core curriculum prior to advancing to upper division courses not in the core except as provided in NR3.5.7 and NR3.5.8. Specific courses which satisfy the core will be determined by the college Executive Committee. (En 30 May 96)(Am 4 Nov 99)(Am 20 Feb 07)~~

~~NR03.05.02 Biology: 12 units including laboratory. The Biology component of the core will consist of a one year introductory~~

PROPOSED:

~~biology course sequences. (En 30 May 96)(Am 20 Feb 07)~~

~~NR03.05.03 Chemistry: 27 units including laboratory. The Chemistry component of the core will consist of a one-year course sequence in general Chemistry (at least 12 units including laboratory) and a one-year course sequence in organic chemistry (at least 12 units including laboratory). (En 30 May 96)(Am 20 Feb 07)~~

~~NR03.05.04 Mathematics: 8 units. The Mathematics component of the course will consist of two courses in calculus. (En 30 May 96)~~

~~NR03.05.05 Physics: 15 units. The Physics component of the core will consist of a oneyear general physics course sequence, including laboratory. (En 30 May 96)~~

~~NR03.05.06 Statistics: 2 units. The Statistics component of this core will consist of at least one course in Statistics. (En 30 May 96)~~

~~NR03.05.07 Biochemistry: 4 units. The Biochemistry component of the core will consist of at least one course in elementary~~

~~or introductory biochemistry. This course may be taken concurrently with other upper division life sciences courses as long as they do not have Biochemistry as a prerequisite. (En 30 May 96)~~

~~NR03.05.08 While the intention is that students will complete all of the core courses before proceeding to upper division courses in their major, a student may begin upper division course while the core is still in progress. Up to 12 units of upper division life sciences courses not being used to satisfy the core may be taken prior to completion of the core; permission of an advisory is required to take upper division units in excess of these 12 units. (En 30 May 96)~~

Statement of Purpose and Effect:

[Background on 3.05 Regulation:

- The Life Science Core Curriculum (hereafter referred to as the “Core”) was enacted to provide consistency in the lower division course requirements for majors in the life sciences such as Biology, enable transfer of students to the various tracks within the Biological Sciences major, to involve more faculty in student advising and to provide more consistent student advising (See original proposal from CNAS EC in 1996, included in file titled CNAS NR.3.5 1996 Regulation Change and Justification.pdf).
- In 2023, there are now 7 Life Science undergraduate majors (Biochemistry; Biology; Cell, Molecular and Developmental Biology; Entomology; Microbiology; Neuroscience; Plant Biology) in CNAS, with at least 2 additional majors in the planning stages. The

Biological Sciences major has been in moratorium for several years and is not accepting students.]

[Purpose for elimination from regulations:

- The Core as stated in the regulations is not enforceable and its inclusion in the CNAS regulations is not widely known among life science faculty and programs. We know of no other UCR school or college that has such a Core in their regulations.
    - This proposal is only to remove the text describing the Core from the regulations. It does not propose removing lower division requirements from any major in CNAS.
    - Prerequisites are used to enforce lower division requirements for upper division courses in the various majors, through Banner.
    - The Biological Sciences major has been in moratorium for several years and the need to transfer large numbers of students between majors has decreased.
    - CNAS has a talented staff of professional advisors in the Undergraduate Academic Advising Center that has improved academic advising for all students in the college
- In the absence of the Core regulation, each major will be free to set its own requirements, matched to the needs of their students. Historically, the lower division requirements defined in the Core were established in part to meet the entrance requirements for Medical and other Health Professional schools (although many of those requirements have changed since 1996). Majors that serve students who have these programs as their goal will likely maintain a lower division core that is identical or similar to the existing Core. Other majors that no longer see a need for certain courses may seek to modify their requirements.
- The Core regulation presents roadblocks for establishing new interdisciplinary majors in the general area of Life Sciences where all courses are not required.

Approved by the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences Faculty Executive Committee (01/23/24)

Section below is for Senate use only

(if applicable)Approved by the Committee on_____: (Insert date of committee approval)

The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction finds the wording to be consistent with the code of the Academic Senate: (leave blank)
Received by Executive Council: (leave blank)