



College of Humanities, Arts, and
Social Sciences
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

July 31, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Juliann Emmons Allison & Erith Jaffee-Berg, Co-Chairs
Peace & Conflict Studies (PCST) Minor

RE: Moratorium on Peace and Conflict Studies (PCST) Minor

Following consultation with members of the faculty Committee in Charge of the Peace & Conflict Studies (PCST) Minor, the CHASS Faculty Executive Committee, which includes the CHAAS Dean, and the program's academic advisors, we request a moratorium be placed on the minor. Student interest in the major has always been weak, and faculty interest in sponsoring student research on "peace and conflict" in the context of the minor is currently nonexistent. Since 2010, only 10 students have graduated with minors in Peace and Conflict Studies, most of them during the first 5 years of the program's existence. We feel that other, better-resourced, UCR programs, including the University Honors Program and capstone courses, such as those required by Global Studies, provide comparable, perhaps even more impactful, opportunities for students to pursue specialization in topics concerning peace and conflict.

Cc: Cherysa Cortez
Beth Beatty



Academic Senate

December 9, 2025

TO: Ken Barish, Chair
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Special Review Committee (SRC) for the proposed moratorium on accepting students into the Peace & Conflict Studies minor
Eric Schwitzgebel, Chair, Professor of Philosophy
Amy Litt, Member, Associate Professor of Botany & Plant Sciences
Neftali Watkinson Medina, Member, Associate Professor of Computer Science & Engineering
Jason Weems, Member, Associate Professor of History of Arts

RE: Moratorium on Peace and Conflict Studies (PCST) Minor

The Special Review Committee decided unanimously to recommend a moratorium on accepting students into the Peace & Conflict Studies (PCST) minor. Faculty interest in sponsoring student research in the context of the minor has been described as “currently nonexistent”. In the past 15 years, only ten students total have graduated with the minor, most of them in the first five years of its existence. Continuing to list the minor as an option in the catalog risks misleading students into expecting faculty support and a peer group of other interested students.

We recommend that the committee in charge of this minor consider disestablishing the minor entirely and discontinuing the courses PCST 190, PCST 197, and PCST 198I.

Undergraduate Program Moratoria

A proposal for moratorium may originate with a department, program or group; with the Dean of the college or school to which the department, program or group is administratively attached; an appropriate Vice Chancellor; or with the Committee on Educational Policy. Final authority to impose a moratorium on an undergraduate program resides with the Committee on Educational Policy.

Process for undergraduate programs:

- The initiating entity should write a proposal for the moratorium in memo format, addressed to Academic Senate. The proposal should include a justification for the proposed moratorium and consultation with affected entities, including the program, Dean, Faculty Executive Committee, and students.
- The proposal is then routed to a Special Review Committee (SRC) for their review and completion of a report. The SRC is appointed by the Committee on Committees and their charge should be developed by the Dean and the Provost & Executive Vice Chancellor.
- The proposal and the SRC's report are routed to the Committee on Educational Policy, which reviews all the materials and can consult with any of the affected entities before making its final decision. Final authority to impose a moratorium on an undergraduate academic program resides with the Committee on Educational Policy.