

May 25, 2020

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Louis Santiago, Chair, Executive Committee
College of Natural and Agricultural Science



Re: Comment on proposed new General Rules and Policies Governing Courses of
Instruction

On May 19, 2020, the CNAS Executive Committee discussed the Committee on Courses proposal for new general rules and policies governing courses of instruction. These are summarized below:

1. The members of the committee agreed that it was time to re-organize the process for proposing new courses, but there was concern that because we could not compare the proposed changes to the original documents, that it was difficult to ascertain what had been changed. That said, there was general agreement that whatever changes were made were probably for the better, since the process is currently flawed.
2. One Assistant Professor proposed that once the new guidelines were established, that they should be tested with two “normal” faculty members to see if they could figure it out, including one new Assistant Professor, and one senior full Professor for a real examination of its understandability.
3. There was also a comment that this process should include Course Preparers, because they are an essential liaison between faculty and the evaluation process.
4. There was a more broad question as to whether the CNAS Executive Committee is the proper place to be reviewing the details of course hours and reading lists on syllabi, and that our committee might not be specialized enough to know all of the requirements of the details of course proposals, and that the CNAS Executive Committee should focus on bigger picture issues, like the effects of new courses on major requirements and the virtues of cross-listing.