



October 5, 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] Proposal to Improve Assessment of Core Competencies and General Education at UCR

Dear Sang-Hee,

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

We believe that the management of this program, particularly the selection of classes, needs careful consideration. The classes chosen for general education must align closely with the intended learning outcomes. We also suggest more faculty inclusion in selecting surveyed classes to identify courses that can contribute meaningfully to the University's general education goals. The committee also believes it is important that the selection of courses is not department-centric, as the needs and objectives of departments vary. We are concerned that the proposed program lacks a mechanism for ongoing assessment and improvement, as it's essential that this initiative is not merely a mandate but is used to enhance our general education program continually. We have observed that the Assessment Advisory Committee does not currently include members from our college and recommend expanding representation to ensure a more comprehensive perspective. Lastly, we would appreciate an update on the status and outcomes of past general education revamp initiatives to avoid duplicating efforts.

In conclusion, we are not fundamentally opposed to the proposal outlined in the memo. However, we believe it requires more robust faculty input, transparency, and ongoing assessment to ensure its success.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. Mobasher" with a stylized flourish underneath.

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