April 25, 2024

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

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

RE: BS in Genetics and Biotechnology

On April 25, 2024, the BCOE Executive Committee reviewed the proposed BS in Genetics and Biotechnology program. The overall sentiment is that program has merit with respect to providing a focus on genetics at the BS level. However, the committee had significant concerns with ‘biotechnology’ in the title of the program. Providing a program that fulfills student preparation for biotechnology careers was one of the key justifications for starting the Department of Bioengineering in 2006. As stated in the UCR Catalog 2023-24, for the bioengineering major, “The major in Bioengineering allows students to complete a B.S. degree that provides a basic education to enter the fields of bioengineering and biotechnology”. In addition, several other programs in BCOE provide training for biotechnology careers. Another concern is that the title may be misleading to students who choose a biotechnology career. Overall, the committee respectfully ask that, prior to moving forward, the proposal be vetted with the departments of Bioengineering, Chemical and Environmental Engineering and Computer Science so that any overlap and ambiguities can be minimized.