April 16, 2024

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

FROM: Wesley Leonard, Chair  
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Proposal: Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Genetics and Biotechnology  
(B.S. in Genetics and Biotechnology [GNBT])

The CHASS Executive Committee reviewed the new Bachelor of Science Degree Program in Genetics and Biotechnology (B.S. in Genetics and Biotechnology [GNBT]). The committee is supportive of the new degree program and has no specific concerns about it moving forward but suggests considering different ways to intersect with CHASS disciplines that may bring additional value to the new major. This could provide opportunities for fruitful collaboration with CHASS units that may contribute to the enrichment in areas that the proposal could benefit – for example, in relation to ethical and related social issues, from the point of view of fields such as Native American Studies, regarding how genetic data are used.