



October 31st, 2025

TO: Kenneth N. Barish, Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Campus Review] (Proposed Regulation Change) Changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4:
2-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts or Master of Science, and Master of Administration;
3-Requirements for the Degree of Master of Fine Arts; 4-Requirements for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed changes to UCR Regulations 2, 3, and 4 at their October 7th meeting and had comments to provide to the Senate.

The committee has voiced their concern for the proposed regulations, which seem to limit the autonomy of the graduate program advisors in allowing students to choose their path forward to obtaining an M.S. degree, after they have advanced to candidacy. This has been available to students as an option if they don't test well or if their project or research doesn't work out and it provides a way for students to continue forward toward their degree. The committee feels that the programs should each be able to decide for themselves if and how many times a student should be allowed to switch their pathway and that the proposed changes are too rigid and may cause undo harm to the students.

Additionally, it was discussed that regulation 3.2, which would allow students who will not be completing their degree to apply for a Candidate in Philosophy (C. Phil). There was discussion that this type of change to the regulations could disqualify current graduate degrees and provide students with an incentive to not complete the degree path they started and committed to.

The committee would like to suggest sending the proposal back for additional changes to support students' decisions to change to an alternative route to complete their Masters program that provides flexibility to change from a thesis to a non-thesis option.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Harry Tom".

Harry Tom, Ph.D

Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences