

January 26th, 2026

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] Department Name Change: Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the proposed change to the Department of Psychology's name at the January 20th meeting and has comments to provide to the Senate.

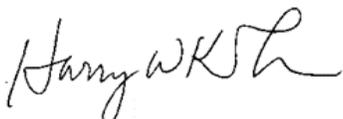
The consensus of the committee is that the proposed alteration to the Department of Psychology's name is not supported.

The committee feels that changing the name to include "Brain Sciences" is misleading to the incoming population of students and by claiming this title, the Department of Psychology is implying that all study of the brain falls within their purview, which is simply not true given that many of the faculty teaching Neuroscience courses, and who are actively researching topics in this field, are housed within CNAS, specifically within the department of Molecular, Cell, and Systems Biology, formerly Cell Biology and Neuroscience.

Concerns were also raised that there are two Neuroscience majors on campus, one within CHASS and one within CNAS, and that by making this change, students who enroll in the CHASS program, expecting to do research with faculty, housed within CNAS, may be limited in their ability to do so, given that students in CNAS are given priority with these opportunities in order to align with the strategic goals of the college, in improving the undergraduate student success and experience.

The committee feels that the proposed change is an attempt to undermine the growth that CNAS is making in these particular fields of study and would harm the experience of the incoming students who may not understand the differences between our programs and would harm their overall time to complete their degrees in a field of their choosing.

Sincerely,



Harry Tom, Ph.D
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences