

April 7, 2026

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

CC: Cherysa Cortez

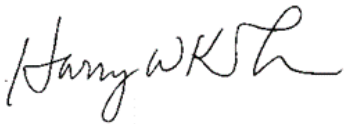
FROM: Harry Tom, Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences

SUBJECT: [Campus Review] Department Name Change: Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences

Prof. Barish,

The CNAS Faculty Executive Committee met April 7, to discuss this issue and the support letter from the Neuroscience stakeholders in CNAS and voted to support the proposed Department name charge: for the Department of Psychology to the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences. A very fruitful informal and then formal meeting including all the stakeholders was held by Prof. Tuppert Yates (Chair of Psychology) and misunderstandings were cleared up in all areas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Harry Tom". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF MOLECULAR, CELL, AND SYSTEMS BIOLOGY  
RIVERSIDE, CALIFORNIA 92521-0146  
OFFICE (951) 827-5427

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026

To: Tuppett Yates, Chair  
Department of Psychology  
From: Michael E. Adams, Chair  
Department of Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology (MCSB)  
Re: Proposed name-change for the Department of Psychology

Following concerns raised by the CNAS Faculty Executive Committee in their January 26, 2026 memo to Senate Chair Barish, faculty of MCSB met on March 2, 2026, to discuss the proposal to rename the Department of Psychology as the **Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences**. Our discussion was supportive of the change; no opposition was expressed. It was noted that inclusion of "Brain Sciences" in the proposed name accurately reflects the nature of ongoing research within the Psychology Department and aligns with the nomenclature of similar programs at peer institutions. Furthermore, our discussion highlighted strong disciplinary and academic synergies between Psychology and MCSB. The proposed name change was viewed as consistent with this collaborative relationship.

On March 11, 2026, the MCSB department formally voted on the proposal. The results are as follows:

- **In Favor:** 20
- **Opposed:** 0
- **Abstentions:** 1
- **Not Voting:** 6

In conclusion, MCSB faculty are unreservedly supportive of the proposed name change.

Sincerely,

Signed by:

Handwritten signature of Michael E. Adams in blue ink.

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Michael E. Adams  
Distinguished Professor and Chair

Signed by:

Handwritten signature of Viji Santhakumar in blue ink.

2806C7C86465429...

Viji Santhakumar,  
Professor and Vice Chair  
Director, Neuroscience Graduate Program

Signed by:  
*Scott Currie*  
31C527F375B3424...

Scott Currie,  
Associate Professor  
Co-Director, Neuroscience  
Undergraduate Program

Signed by:  
*Morris Maduro*  
BFB9A336334A471...

Morris Maduro,  
Professor  
Life Science Divisional Dean  
College of Natural Sciences

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.

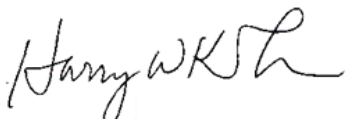
The consensus of the committee is that the proposed alteration to the Department of Psychology's name is not supported.

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