

November 14, 2014

To: Jose Wudka, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Sarjeet Gill, Chair, Executive Committee  
College of Natural and Agricultural Science

**Re: Review of proposed revision to Appendix 3.A – Dean’s Honor List**

While the CNAS Executive Committee met and discusses the Proposed Revisions of the Dean’s Honor List Standards on their October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting. While the committee supports the goal of changing student behavioral patterns to earn at least 15 units per quarter and thus make more timely progress towards their degrees, our committee is concerned over potential impacts that this particular policy change could have on disadvantaged students.

Many of UCR’s students are low-income, first-generation and underrepresented. Such demographic factors may prompt more of them to work part-time and take lower quarterly unit loads than their less-disadvantaged counterparts at other UC campuses. The committee is therefore concerned that raising the unit bar for making the Dean’s and Chancellor’s lists may preferentially disqualify our more disadvantaged students.

The committee is also concerned that because some lab- and field-based CNAS courses can have a wide range of unit values outside 4 or 5 units, the combinatorial mathematics may require some students to take comparatively higher unit loads (16-18) in order to meet the new 15 unit minimum for the Dean’s list. Again, this may work to bias the Dean’s list against our more disadvantaged students.

To alleviate these concerns, the committee strongly suggests that a study be made by the Registrar of how many and what kinds of students (financial aid status, ethnicity) would have been kept off of the Dean’s and Chancellor’s list has this proposed policy been in effect during the last academic year.