



Office of the Dean  
Riverside, CA 92521  
Tel 951.827.5190  
Fax 951.827.3188  
[www.engr.ucr.edu](http://www.engr.ucr.edu)

December 8, 2014

TO: Jose Wudka, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Akula Venkatram, Chair  
Executive Committee, Bourns College of Engineering

RE: Student Proposal for Gender Studies Breadth Requirement

The BCOE Executive Committee supports the student-initiated proposal that UCR take steps to ensure that students become aware of gender inequality and gender related violence.

However, the Committee has concerns about the requirement that every UCR student take a gender related course to graduate. This could diminish the breadth of exposure our students get to the Humanities and the Social Sciences. Such breadth is greatly valued in engineering education as being critical to success in the field. Also, the national ABET accreditation process we go through every six years reviews our breadth requirements, and requires us to present real data justifying all curricular changes as enhancing our published program outcomes. There was also concern that approval of this kind of proposal could encourage similar requests that might limit the breadth of courses available to students.

We would like to propose that the scope of our current "Ethnic Studies" requirement, which already focuses on certain affected groups, be enlarged to include Gender. A student could meet this requirement with a course related to either Ethnicity or Gender.