April 3, 2000

TO: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CNAS

FROM: COMMITTEE IN CHARGE, CONSERVATION BIOLOGY MAJOR (Nick Waser, Rick Redak, Bill Walton)

Via Dean Michael T. Clegg

RE: Moratorium on Conservation Biology Major as of 2002

We suggest that a moratorium be placed as soon as practical on entry of new students in the Conservation Biology Major. Student who wish to enter the major should instead be directed to the new Conservation biology Track within the Biological Sciences Major. The new students now in the Conservation Biology Major, or entering it before the moratorium is approved, will finish in that major.

In a vote held recently, the faculty supported the plan to clear a Conservation Biology Track within the Biological Sciences Major, and to place the moratorium on the separate Conservation Biology Major. The intent is to have the curriculum for the Track be identical to that for the Major, as now laid out in the UCR General Catalog.

There are two reasons to move toward a Track. The first is that we believe that more students will be attracted if Conservation Biology is a Track within a larger Major. Our perception is that some students interested in this area view the separate major as too "risky"; these students however, might enter a Track within a large and popular Major. Also, advertising of the existence of the Track is likely to be more effective than advertising of the existence of a separate major. The second reason to move to a Track has to do with efficiency of administration and of student advising which now will all fall under the Biological Sciences umbrella.

Reviewed and Approved by CNAS Executive Committee: 4/19/00
Approved by the Committee on Educational Policy: 1/26/01