To be Adopted:

Proposed Changes to NR2.1.2

FACULTY ADVISERS

Present:

NR2.1.1 At the time of registration each student who has declared a major will be assigned to a member of the Faculty of the department or interdepartmental group who will serve as the Faculty adviser. It is the responsibility of the department to inform the student of the assignment to an adviser. Students who are undecided as to a major will be assigned to the Dean’s office for advising.

NR 2.1.2. A student shall choose a major not later than the beginning of the junior year.

Proposed:

NR2.1.1 At the time of registration each student who has declared a major will be assigned to a member of the Faculty of the department or interdepartmental group who will serve as the Faculty adviser. It is the responsibility of the department to inform the student of the assignment to an adviser. Students who are undecided as to a major will be assigned to the Dean’s office for advising.

NR2.1.2 A student must declare a major by the time they reach junior status (90 earned units excluding college work completed prior to high school graduation). Students who fail to declare a major by this time will not be permitted to register until an approved declaration of major has been submitted to the Dean’s office.

Effective Upon Approval

Justification: At the end of the third week of the Fall quarter, 2004, CNAS had 1060 Undeclared students out of a total of 4023 undergraduates. Of these, 307 were juniors (237) or seniors (70) with ≥ 90 units completed (7.6%). Conversely, CHASS had only 133 Undeclared students who were juniors (109) and seniors (24) out of a total of 9549 undergraduates (1.4%). The College of Engineering had 35 Undeclared students who were juniors (21) and seniors (14) out of a total enrollment of 1517 (2.3%). CNAS has a disproportionately large number of Undeclared students in spite of current attempts to encourage students to find majors that are matched to their interests and aptitudes.

The current CNAS regulation NR2.1.2 was probably intended to require students to declare a major by the time they had completed 90 units. However, it lacks a definition of “the beginning of the junior year,” and, more importantly, does not specify any restrictions for Undeclared students who exceed an accumulation of 90 units. These defects inhibit the current efforts of the college to get students into declared majors.

With the proposed regulation change, we will be able to clearly inform students early in their careers that their time as an undeclared student is limited and that they will need to declare a major by the
time they have accumulated 90 units. A clearly stated regulation will provide a better justification for our efforts to get students to declare a major.

College credits earned in high school—community college, AP, and IB—should not be considered in the 90-unit limit because students are not informed of this regulation until they enroll at UCR. This exclusion is also consistent with the 216-unit limitation before graduation that excludes AP and IB units.

Reviewed and Approved by CNAS Executive Committee: November 9, 2004
Reviewed and Approved by CNAS Faculty: May 20, 2005
Approved by Committee on Educational Policy: May 26, 2005
The Committee on Rules and Jurisdiction finds the wording consistent with the Code of the Academic Senate: June 7, 2005
Endorsed by the Advisory Committee acting on behalf of the Riverside Division: June 13, 2005