

Graduate Council

March 23, 2018

To: Dylan Rodriguez, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Hyle Park, Vice Chair
Graduate Council



Re: [Campus Review] Proposed Degree Program: Joint Entomology BS/Entomology MS Five-Year Combined-Degree Program

Graduate Council discussed the proposal for the Five-Year Combined-Degree Program “Entomology BS/Entomology MS”. Although comments were overall positive, several areas require clarification:

- It was unclear to the Council if the course-work, research credits, and thesis carried out under the proposed BS/MS program are equivalent to a “full” 2-year Master of Science in Entomology or if they rather constitute a 5-year baccalaureate program (closer to an honors program than a MSc program). If the latter, the program should consider renaming this degree track, e.g., to “baccalaureate program in Entomology”. If this program is intended to replace a 2-year MSc program, it should be discussed more explicitly how course-work, research credits, and thesis expectations of the proposed BS/MS and the 2-year MSc are equivalent. Moreover, the Council was concerned that the transcript will not show a MS degree (as is common with most other BS/MS programs) even though the name of the program has “MS” in it. Thus, there is the potential for significant confusion among students.
- Should this program be intended as a baccalaureate program and students be accepted into a 2-year MSc program after graduating from it, will some of the credits earned during the 5-year program count towards a 2-year MSc (at UCR or elsewhere)?
- Should this new program be intended to replace a 2-year MSc program, a rationale should be provided for why a 2-year MSc program in Entomology would still be offered at UCR in parallel to the proposed program.
- Official admission criteria: in contrast to admission to the graduate program in Entomology (both MS and PhD) that requires for a faculty mentor (“major

professor”) to sign for a student before they are admitted to the program (although this is not stated as such in the current catalog copy, it appears), wording for “official admission criteria” to the BS/MS implies that this is not the case for this program. The paragraph below states that students are responsible for selecting a faculty mentor, but it is unclear what happens to students who do not succeed in finding a mentor. If commitment of a faculty member to supervise a student’s thesis is required before admission, this should be clarified.