



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Proposed Insect Biology Undergraduate Honors Research Program

May 4, 2012

The College of Ag and Enviro Sciences has submitted a proposal for an undergraduate Research Honors Program in Insect Biology for review/approval by Undergraduate Council.

Administrative Partners (DANN TRASK)

May 14, 2012 5:49 PM

No response at this time.

Graduate Council

March 28, 2012 11:48 AM

No response at this time.

Undergraduate Council

May 18, 2012 2:19 PM

Response continued on next page.

Dear Professor Calvert:

The Undergraduate Council reached the following resolutions in relationship to the request for approval of an Honors Research Program in Insect Biology. This response was approved at the May 4, 2012 meeting.

We judge the proposal for an Honors Research Program in Insect Biology to be unacceptable as currently configured. Advertising for the program as an honors program must cease until a revised program is approved by Undergraduate Council.

We invite a revised proposal, which needs to address the shortcomings described in the response from the Committee on Special Academic Programs. We recommend the following changes as the simplest and least intrusive on the original design:

1. If the program continues to be based on lab-experience (P/NP) courses, the word "honors" must not be used to describe it. Rename the program "Mentorship Program in Insect Biology" or something along those lines.
2. Explain where, how, and by whom the program is to be administered and directed.
3. State explicitly the criteria on which a student's acceptance into the program is based.
4. Quantify the minimum requirements (courses, units, participation) for both satisfactory progress and satisfactory completion of the program.
5. Design the requirements so that students transferring as juniors can participate.
6. If there is to be a senior independent research project, it needs to have a course number other than 194H and the course cannot be named "honors thesis."

Based on this proposal's reliance on structures put into place by the Davis Honors Challenge, we are writing to ask the Davis Honors Challenge to revise some of its language and are also inviting colleges to think about creating a standard policy for honors programs at the College level. Our proposed model is based on the existing College of Letters and Sciences Honors Program Guidelines. We hope to share the latter document soon.

Best,

Jon Rossini,
Chair, Undergraduate Council