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December 2, 2014

MARY GILLY, CHAIR

UC Academic Council
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

RE: UC DOCTORAL STUDENT SUPPORT REVIEW

The UC Doctoral Student Support Review was forwarded to all Davis Division of the Academic Senate standing committees and school/college Faculty Executive Committees. Responses were received from Graduate Council, the Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity and the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Letters and Science. In addition, the question concerning Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition waiver was debated electronically by Divisional Executive Council. The following summarizes responses received:

Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition: The NRST is one of the most serious problems faced by our graduate programs. We believe that Regental policy changes are necessary for long-term stability. However, the Davis Division recognizes the January or February 2015 Regents Meeting may not be the best time to suggest select waiver of UC-wide non-resident supplemental tuition. It may be prudent at this time to encourage all campuses to examine locally how best to eliminate the NRST burden on graduate students and PIs in order for UC to remain competitive. Should the Academic Council choose to move forward with a recommendation for Regental policy, Graduate Council suggests: "...the ideal situation would be that as soon as a graduate student is employed by a UC Campus in any substantial fashion (the actual minimum FTE was not discussed), no NRST would be charged, by Regent Policy. This is stronger than option I.A.1. In keeping with this sentiment, option I.A.2. could also work, if applied to the first year and on-ward, where UC policy would be to fully reimburse grants or to not charge NRST for grants at all; however this latter policy was not considered as desirable because student employment might not come out of grants but other campus sources."

Net Stipend Competitiveness, Multi-Year Funding and Transparent Offer Letters:

- We support specific recommendations concerning net stipend competitiveness.
- We recognize the need for offer letters that are more transparent and that specify the contributions of fellowships and teaching/research assistantships.
- We are supportive of the multi-year recommendations; however, there is understandable conservatism concerning multi-year commitments. Multi-year offers are difficult to guarantee given research grant funding can be unpredictable, and offer letters may be based on potential funding sources. If UC wishes to enable multi-year commitments it may be necessary to create centralized funding to assure all commitments are fulfilled. In addition, the report proposes that "UC should commit to offering 2 years of fellowship support (to be coupled with at least 2 years of campus/department support) to any former UC-HBCU Initiative intern admitted to any UC PhD program." This proposal offers an opportunity for UC to act on multi-year fellowships. Two years is not very long for centralized funding. If the remaining two years is to be funded by the department there must be a mechanism ensuring pre-offer notification and formal departmental funding commitment for the remainder.

Professional Development: We support the professional development recommendations in III.B.

Diversity Proposals: We support all four items. UC needs to continually monitor effectiveness following implementation of recommendations. In addition, we should study if faculty mentor/role model diversity improves

graduate student pool diversity. We need to assure that due diligence is provided to improving graduate student pool diversity through development of diverse pools from UC undergraduates; and investigating methods to better educate graduate program admissions committees.

Please note: There is an error on the top of page 76 the UC Davis Graduate Summer Advantage Program calculation indicates at total of 48 students have been served. The proposed program will serve 12 students per year.

Sincerely,



André Knoesen, Chair
Davis Division of the Academic Senate
Professor: Electrical and Computer Engineering