



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policy

December 9, 2016

The University invites comments on a proposed revised Regental policy governing Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST).

The proposed revised policy would incorporate *Regents Policy 3104: Principles Underlying the Determination of Fees for Students of Professional Degree Programs* into a revision of *Regents Policy 3103: Policy on Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition*.

The proposed revised Regents Policy 3103 affirms that “Any initiation of, or increase in PDST shall be justified by the programmatic and financial needs of the graduate professional degree programs and must be considered in the context of the University’s commitment to access, inclusion, and affordability.” It maintains the multi-year plan and an emphasis on consultation with students and faculty. The main divergences from current PDST policies are as follows:

1. Regental approval of a multi-year plan for each graduate professional degree program charging PDST
2. Understanding that approval of the multi-year plan confers automatic approval for a PDST level for each year of the plan that is no higher than that in the approved plan
3. Emphasis on using several perspectives to provide a strong rationale for the PDST levels proposed in the multi-year plan
4. Absence of any fixed cap on the PDST level or PDST increase
5. Use of the percent increase in cost of living as a benchmark but neither a ceiling nor a floor for any proposed annual increase for a PDST

FEC: Graduate School of Management

December 1, 2016 10:52 AM

see attached document.

Response continued on next page.

Dec 1, 2016

Academic Senate Request for Consultation: Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policy

GSM Faculty Executive Committee Response:

The GSM faculty executive committee supports the more streamlined PDST policy, and we appreciate that it provides programs with more flexibility in setting PDST.

The absence of a cap on PDST allows individual programs to consider the level of PDST necessary to achieve and maintain excellence within their respective programs. We support this change. That being said, we also appreciate the need keep PDST sufficiently low to help ensure access, inclusion, and affordability of the program. We believe that individual programs are in the best position to consider this tradeoff in setting PDST, and we appreciate that flexibility is being provided at that level.

We support the multi-year approval plan. All else equal, this should reduce administrative costs associated with the review and approval process. However, we question the net benefit to adding yet another level of approval at the Regents level. The approval process is excessive, including several levels at the campus level, the UCOP, and the Regents. If it is necessary that the Regents be the approving authority, then perhaps the PDST proposals should go directly from the program to the Regents. We want to avoid a scenario which adds “dead time” to the approval process, and in which Regents merely rubber-stamp serious analysis that other committees conduct. If that is the intent, then Regents should delegate approval to UCOP or to the Campus level. We are also concerned about the political nature of PDST and how that may interact with engaging the Regents.

We suggest that there be a defined timeframe for the various levels of approving authority’s responses. Absent a defined timeframe, we are concerned about long delays.

We are also concerned about the expectation of using CPI as a benchmark. Our most significant PDST costs are lecturer and staff salaries and benefits. In recent years, the CPI average has been 1.8%, while the average UCOP mandated salary increase for staff has been 3% annually. We hope that in cases such as these that a reasonable proposal backed up by financial data and a thorough student consultation will be approved even if it exceeds projected CPI.

The proposed policy reads as if a UC program should be compared to graduate professional degree programs at both public and private institutions. What is the justification for including both public and private? Is a comparison with private institutions necessary?

FEC: School of Law

December 9, 2016 7:18 PM

Response continued on next 2 pages.

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SCHOOL OF LAW

400 MRAK HALL DRIVE
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-5201

December 9, 2016

Re: Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition Policy.

The School of Law FEC supports the proposal.

Gabriel J. Chin
Edward L. Barrett Jr. Chair &
Martin Luther King Jr. Professor of Law &
Chair, School of Law FEC

FEC: School of Medicine

January 3, 2017 1:31 PM

Rachael Goodhue
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

RE: Comments from the School of Medicine Faculty Executive Committee (FEC)
Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition

Dear Dr. Goodhue:

Thank you for allowing the School of Medicine Faculty Executive Committee to weigh in on the RFC for the Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition. This proposal has been discussed at one of our meetings. All of the members have received the proposal to read in detail. The revision reaffirms the principles and increases the predictability of PDST. One of our FEC members raised the issue of percentage contribution to revenue from the supplemental tuition being higher in the School of Medicine. We are most concerned that these fees as we work towards trying to improve the value of Medical education and reduce graduation student debt. Beyond that, we had no specific comments and generally support the proposal.

Thank you for your invitation to comment. If you need any further information, please contact me.

Respectfully,
Stuart H. Cohen, M.D.

Graduate Council

December 9, 2016 1:56 PM

Response continued on next 3 pages.

December 9, 2016

To: Provost Aimee Dorr, Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Re: RFC - Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policy

Graduate Council discussed the proposed revisions to the Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policies 3103 and 3104 and provides the following comments for consideration.

Graduate Council:

1. supports combining the two policies into a single policy and consolidating the wording to simplify the document.
2. supports the overall goals and philosophy of implementation and oversight.
3. recommends that professional programs that have a PDST plan be required to review that plan at least every five years. The original policy stated every three years (5.iii. - "for each program, at least every three years."). The new policy has no minimum time specified.
4. recommends retaining wording from the original policies regarding who should be consulted when professional programs propose changes to PDST. The original policy included wording that required student leaders be involved in the policy review process (7.D.ii - "Information as to the views of the unit's student body and faculty on the proposed increase. This information may be obtained in a variety of ways ranging from consultations with elected student leaders and faculty executive committees to referenda. The information would be treated as advisory, but The Regents would view more favorably Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition proposals that enjoy the support of a unit's faculty and student body."). The proposed policy wording (4.a.ix) simply states, "consultation with students and faculty about the plan", giving the impression that students could be "hand-picked" and thus not necessarily be representative of student leadership within the Professional Program.
5. recommends that wording be added to ensure that any proposed changes to multi-campus PDST plans involve consultation with student and faculty representatives from each campus.
6. recommends that PDSTs be reviewed for long term financial feasibility for the students. There is evidence that students graduating from some Professional Programs will not be able to pay off their education debt within the duration of their expected career.
7. recommends that all reviews of professional programs that have a PDST include an evaluation of the PDST, specifically justification for PDST, the financial burden on students, and the feasibility of students paying off their education debt within their career.
8. recommends clarification regarding the work-flow of the proposal. The original policy states that the professional program submits the PDST proposal to the Provost. The Chancellor reviews the PDST. The President consults with the Provost and submits the proposal to the Regents for approval. The group or person responsible for transmittal of the PDST proposal to the various people and the order of review is not clear in the original nor revised policy.

The proposed Policy 3103 is attached with Graduate Council's recommended edits highlighted.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed revisions to the Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policies 3103 and 3104

**Proposed Revised PDST Policy
October 18, 2016**

**Regents Policy 3103: POLICY ON PROFESSIONAL DEGREE SUPPLEMENTAL
TUITION**

Combined with

**Regents Policy 3104: PRINCIPLES UNDERLYING THE DETERMINATION OF FEES
FOR STUDENTS OF PROFESSIONAL DEGREE PROGRAMS**

1. Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) shall be assessed to students enrolled in designated graduate professional degree programs in order to achieve and maintain excellence in the preparation of students for professional careers and effectively advance the mission and strategic academic plan of the graduate professional degree program charging a PDST.
2. Access and inclusion are among the University's core commitments, and affordability is a vitally important component of a public education system. Any initiation of, or increase in, PDST shall be justified by the programmatic and financial needs of the graduate professional degree programs and must be considered in the context of the University's commitment to access, inclusion, and affordability.
 - a. The University is committed to ensuring the inclusion of diverse populations in its programs, including its graduate professional degree programs. In keeping with this commitment, each program proposing to charge PDST shall describe comprehensive strategies for the inclusion of diverse populations, consistent with Regents Policy 4400 (Policy on University of California Diversity Statement).
 - b. Financial aid targeted for students enrolled in graduate professional degree programs is necessary to ensure access to the degree programs, to minimize financial barriers to the pursuit of lower-paying public interest careers, and to reduce restrictions on students' career options due to student debt. Each program proposing to charge PDST shall complement its proposed PDST plans with financial aid measures, such as scholarships, grants, and loan repayment assistance programs, to meet these goals adequately. Financial aid sources should be supplemented by an amount equivalent to at least 33 percent of new Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition revenue or by an amount necessary to ensure that financial aid sources are equivalent to at least 33 percent of all Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition revenue.

c. A detailed financial analysis of student debt and potential income in different sectors of the professional field should be conducted to assess the feasibility of a student to overcome the financial burden of the PDST.

3. The President or his/her designee is responsible for ensuring that graduate professional degree programs engage in appropriate multi-year planning of PDST levels within the context of principles and goals expressed in this policy and do so in consultation with graduate students, faculty, and program and administrative leadership.

4. Each multi-year plan for charging a PDST shall be prepared by the professional degree program and submitted to the Provost. The Provost reviews the proposal and shares it with the Chancellor. The Chancellor endorses the proposal and forwards it to the President. The President submits the proposal to the Regents for approval. ~~by the campus, endorsed by the Chancellor, reviewed by the Provost, and recommended to the Regents by the President.~~ Each multi-year plan requires approval by the Regents in order to be implemented. Provosts at multiple campuses are responsible for coordinating multi-campus PDST proposals.

a. The Provost shall establish the format for the submittal of a multi-year plan that effectively addresses the requirements of this policy. At a minimum, the multi-year plan shall address the following topics:

- i. nature and purpose of the graduate professional degree program charging the PDST,
- ii. proposed PDST level for each year of the plan,
- iii. uses of the PDST funds,
- iv. contributions of the PDST funds to the excellence of the degree program,
- v. strategies for ensuring access, inclusion, and affordability,
- vi. identification of the program's set of public and private comparators,
- vii. analysis of the graduate professional degree program in relation to its comparators,
- viii. assessment of the graduate professional degree program's performance with respect to quality, access, inclusion, and affordability, and
- ix. consultation with students and faculty about the plan, which may be obtained in a variety of ways ranging from meetings with elected student leaders and faculty executive committees to referenda.

- b. The proposed PDST level for each year of the plan shall be based on demonstrated programmatic needs during the period of the multi-year plan and consistent with the University's commitments to quality, access, inclusion, and affordability. Justification is particularly needed for proposed increases greater than the rate of inflation at the time the multi-year plan is prepared.
 - c. The actual annual PDST levels in the approved multi-year plan shall be considered to have been approved at the time the multi-year plan was approved. A PDST level less than that approved in the multi-year plan shall also be considered to have been approved at the time the multi-year plan was approved. In order to charge a PDST greater than that in the approved plan, a new multi-year plan with the desired PDST in the first year shall be prepared and approved.
 - d. Graduate professional degree programs in the same discipline at different campuses may have PDSTs set at different levels. If there is a multi-campus PDST, then UC Student Association and Academic Senate faculty representatives from each campus should be consulted regarding any proposed changes to the PDST.
 - e. The charging of PDSTs and increases in PDSTs shall not occasion corresponding declines in State support for the professional schools offering the degree programs that charge a PDST.
5. Multi-year plans shall be reviewed at a minimum every five years and approved within a time frame that supports adequate planning and preparation for both students and their graduate professional degree program.
 6. Reviews of Professional Programs that have PDSTs should include an evaluation of the PDSTs by the review committee. Reviewers should be asked to specifically consider justification for the PDST, the financial burden on students, and the feasibility of student's paying off program debt within a reasonable time.

Planning & Budget

December 26, 2016 11:41 AM

CPB discussed the Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) Policy and agrees with the proposed policy.