



Davis Division Academic Senate

Request for Consultation Responses

UC Doctoral Student Support

November 19, 2014

The UC Academic Council is forwarding for systemwide review a set of proposals, recommendations, and related materials with respect to doctoral student support. As many of you will recall, these proposals were initially developed at an All-UC Doctoral Student Support Conference held last spring; they have been subsequently refined by a Steering Committee with the intent of preparing them for presentation to the Regents at the January 2015 Regents meeting.

Affirmative Action & Diversity

November 18, 2014 9:12 AM

Provided attention is given to the impact on diversity, the proposals are positive steps that will allow more diversity and are congruent with AA&D goals.

Council of School & College Faculty Chairs (LS: MATH/PHY SCI)

October 31, 2014 3:57 PM

I like the overall tenor of the report, and appreciate the focus on a part of the UC mission that hasn't gotten its fair share of attention. Several points, though:

1. I am very disappointed that the committee seems to have backed off from asking for an end to nonresident tuition after the first year, offering an alternative of "encourag[ing] campuses to engage in financial NRST work-arounds, and share those plans with other campuses, without a formal change to UC or Regental policy." This might be politically easier, but it's dodging one of the most serious problems in our graduate programs.
2. I am sympathetic with the desire for offer letters that are "more transparent and specify the contributions of fellowships, teaching assistantships, and/or research assistantships, as well as when each will apply." But I would be happier if the report also recognized more explicitly that many research grants -- and therefore research assistantships -- are unpredictable from year to year, making it very hard to forecast that element of support.
3. On the other hand... 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." Two years is not very long, and I suspect that not all departments will be enthusiastic about having the university (apparently) commit them to an additional two years of funding. Here's a place that the university could really act on the proposal of multiyear fellowships.

Graduate Council

November 19, 2014 3:10 PM

Response continued on next page.

November 19, 2014

RFC: UC DOCTORAL STUDENT SUPPORT

The Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the aforementioned RFC at our meeting of November 7, 2014.

The Graduate Council discussion resulted in the recommendations as follow:

For the Nonresidential Supplemental Tuition (NRST) I.A. Recommendations/Options, Graduate Council (GC) suggested 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. Graduate Council (GC) concluded that Regent Policy changes would be best because they would be less likely to be reversed by upper administration personnel changes.

Graduate Council (GC) supported the recommendations specifically concerning Net Stipend Competitiveness (II.A.B.); GC also supported the Multi-year recommendations (II.B.B.) and went beyond this, noting that some form of centralized back-up funds should be available to decrease the “conservatism” for multi-year offers especially for those programs with historically limited resources. GC supported transparent offer letters (II.B.C.) but wanted to make sure these letters also included flexibility associated with a variety of potential funding sources not yet determined at the time of the offer letter writing. GC supported Professional Development recommendations in III.B.

For the Diversity Proposal recommendations (IV.B.), GC agreed with all four items, and in addition discussed other important related issues. Of special note-worthiness are (1) studying the ways graduate education funding furthers the diversity of faculty mentor role models for their graduate students, while consistent with Federal and State regulations, and investigating how to better educate graduate program admissions committees regarding methods to improve graduate student pool diversity.

The Graduate Council submits these comments, as accepted by consensus at our November 7, 2014 meeting, as the Council’s assessment of the UC Doctoral Student Support RFC.

Sincerely,



Kyaw Tha Paw U, Chair
Graduate Council

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C: Gina Anderson, Academic Senate Executive Director