LETTER OF DEMAND:
Extension to Graduate Waiver of Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition

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31 August 2020

Dean Susan Etner (UCLA Graduate Division), Vice Chancellor Gregg Goldman (Finance)

CC: Chancellor Gene Block, Executive Chancellor Emily Carter, Assistant Vice Provost Samuel Bersola (UCLA Graduate Division), Associate Dean Renate Lux (UCLA Graduate Division), Acting Associate Dean Onyebuchi Arah (UCLA Graduate Division)

Dear Dean Etner, VC. Goldman,

On April 19th 2020, our union UAW 2865 sent out a letter to the UC Office of President (UCOP) calling for extensions of Non-Residential Supplemental Tuition (NRST) waivers and a lift of the six-year teaching limit. These measures are important for many doctoral students, especially international students, who are currently dealing with disruptions brought on by the COVID-19 crisis in their professional and personal lives. After sustained efforts by our members to organize around this issue, UCOP has deferred this decision to individual UC schools.
Since that time, as a result of pressure from graduate students on each campus, the UC as a whole has agreed to lift the six-year teaching limit, yet only UC Davis and UC Berkeley have taken steps to extend NRST waivers; the former has indicated that it will utilize an existing fellowship program to ensure access to NRST funding for international graduate students, while the latter instituted a universal one-year NRST waiver extension. We, the undersigned UAW 2865 members and graduate students, representing the richness of our campus’ plurality and diversity across fields of study, urge UCLA to follow suit.

Access to research resources, including Library materials, has drastically been curtailed in addition to the economic, political, social, physical, and psychological hardships we already face as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated effects. Our research in many fields has effectively come to a grinding halt, while fees and deadlines have not sufficiently adapted to the reality that we have all made sacrifices to meet responsibly.

Effectively financially penalizing doctoral students who are, or will become subject to NRST – many of whom are international students – is completely unacceptable, cannot be justified, and goes against the values of UCLA and the UC system, particularly the words of Chancellor Gene Block dated 7th July 2020 in response to the ICE directive against our international student community:

“UCLA is proud that we have attracted the best minds from around the world who have helped us build a vibrant learning community, advanced vital research and strengthened essential international collaborations...We value the voices, insights and presence of every single member of the UCLA family, including those from other countries who have created an intellectual home here, who have established roots in our communities, and who greatly contribute to our campus. UCLA stands with our international students during this challenging period”

The imposition of NRST, which often amounts to an extra $15,000.00 a year, is a heavy and disproportionate burden on students who are paying for resources they can no longer access during this period. International students do not qualify for federal assistance like that contemplated in the CARES Act, cannot ordinarily seek employment outside UCLA, cannot work more than 20 hours a week during term, cannot safely return to their home countries in many instances, and, moreover, face challenges working from abroad if they do return. All of this amounts to an economic strangulation that is further compounded by NRST.
We therefore urge UCLA to:

1. to issue a universal extension to the graduate waiver of NRST for a period of no less than 1 year;
2. apply this extension to doctoral students who have already advanced to candidacy and those who will advance to candidacy within the next 3 years

Students who are affected are not just those who have advanced to candidacy, but also those who have planned to advance and now are struggling to meet deadlines and requirements because of the drastic changes to inter alia teaching, housing, employment, research access, and administration. In addition doctoral students who were planning to go on the job market next year now find that option a remote possibility, and many would have to stay in their programs longer as a result of this disruption in their job search.

Union members believe this is a serious issue concerning equity among the student body across all UCs and will continue to take strong organizing efforts to advocate for this demand. We hope to see UCLA live up to its rhetoric by taking timely action to demonstrate its commitment to the well-being of all its students by covering the NRST for all affected students. At this stage, we call on you to meet with us to discuss these issues, such that they can be sufficiently resolved.

Yours sincerely,

Graduate student members of UAW 2865

Signed:

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76. Tanya Matthan, PhD candidate, Anthropology
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78. Murat Can Sarıhan, PhD Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering
79. Cartland Zhou, PhD Student, Political Science
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<td>80.</td>
<td>Zhenyu</td>
<td>PhD Student, Biostatistics</td>
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<td>Saad Shaukat</td>
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<td>82.</td>
<td>Cooper Lynn</td>
<td>MA Student, Slavic Studies</td>
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<td>Kyle Scott</td>
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<td>Brea Hogan</td>
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<td>Shayna Sura</td>
<td>PhD Candidate, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology</td>
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<td>Maya Segal</td>
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<td>Remi Bardou</td>
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<td>Shelby Redman</td>
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<td>Xinyu Ma</td>
<td>PhD Student</td>
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190. Fang-Ru Lin, PhD Candidate, Asian Languages and Cultures
191. Carolyn Murray, PhD Candidate, Psychology
192. Oyemen Ehikhamhen, MFA Candidate, TFT
193. Joseph Murphy, PhD Student, Sociology
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204. Ruby Arreguin, MFA, Theater, Film, & Television
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254. Shashank Narayana Gowda, PhD candidate, Mechanical Engineering
255. Deepak Singla, MS Student, Bioengineering
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258. Vanessa Febo, Ph.D. Candidate, English
259. Alba Menendez Pereda, PhD Student, Cotsen Institute of Archaeology
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269. Alex Rossell Hayes, PhD Student, Political Science
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271. Gregory Sattler, PhD student, History
272. Anthony Kim, PhD Student, English
273. Derek DeRoche, MFA Student, Film, Television, and Digital Media
274. Hui Huang, PhD Student, Education
275. Sammy Roth, PhD Student, World Arts & Cultures/Dance
276. Josh Hueth, PhD Student, ENGLISH
277. James Walker, PhD Candidate, Geography
278. Drew Malmuth, PhD Student, Sociology
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280. Derek Richard, PhD Student, Chemical Engineering
281. Emma Ridder, Ph.D. Student, English
282. Sunkyu Lee, PhD Candidate, History
283. Molly Corkins, MFA student, Theater in School of theater, film and television
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285. Augusto Ospital, PhD Candidate, Economics
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288. Xuanyi Wu, PhD Candidate, Materials Science and Engineering
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293. Ana Gomez, PhD Candidate, EEB
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296. Ziyang Zhang, PhD graduate, MSE
297. Ryan Rockmore, PhD student, WAC/D
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299. Tieyi Li, PhD candidate, MSE
300. Brenda Wang, PhD Student, English
301. Valeria Tizol, MFA Student, Art
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305. Javier Muñoz, PhD Candidate, History
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308. Erik Hanson, PhD Candidate, Political Science
309. Nick Geiser, PhD Candidate, Physics
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320. Jiyoung Kim, PhD Student, Political Science
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561. Bianca Romagnoli, Phd candidate, Anthropology
562. Tyanna Slobe, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
563. Delaney Knorr, PhD Student, Anthropology
564. Nikhit Agrawal, PhD Student, Anthropology
565. Dylan Fitzwater, PhD Student, Anthropology
566. Sita Mamidipudi, PhD student, Anthropology
567. Sonya Rao, PhD candidate, Anthropology
568. Emily Jones, PhD student, Anthropology
569. Wanda Quintanilla Duran, PhD Student, Anthropology
570. Donghyoun We, PhD Student, Anthropology
571. Maxwell Hellmann, PhD Student, Anthropology
572. William Schlesinger, MD/PhD Candidate, Anthropology
573. Jessie Stoolman, PhD Student, Anthropology
574. Lauren Textor, PhD student, Anthropology
575. Brittany Murphy, PhD Student, TFT
576. Anthony James Williams, PhD Candidate, Sociology
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578. Alejandro ERUT, PhD candidate, Anthropology
579. Madeleine Yakal, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
580. Jananie, PhD Student, Anthropology
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584. Yvonne Carrillo, PhD Student, Sociology
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586. Jonathan Sivan, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
587. Yael Assor, P.D Candidate, Anthropology
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