

September 22, 2020

Susan Ettner, Interim Dean
Graduate Division

Gregg Goldman, Vice Chancellor
Office of the Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer

Shane White, Chair
Academic Senate

Re: Letter of Demand: Extension to Graduate Waiver of Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition

Dear Dean Ettner, Vice Chancellor Goldman, and Chair White,

The Committee on International Education (CIE) requests immediate action and calls upon the Graduate Division and Administration to consider the letter of demand from the graduate student members of UAW 2865.

Due to the current pandemic, graduate students have faced inordinate academic and financial challenges. While still assessed the non-resident supplement tuition, international students do not qualify for federal assistance, are not eligible for many extramural fellowships, and cannot work more than 20 hours a week during the term. The limitations on external support and potential delays to academic and research progress place an undue burden on international graduate students.

To mitigate some of the financial concerns and challenges, the Committee supports the letter of demand from the graduate students and additionally, recommends the following considerations:

1. An NRST waiver of at least one year until normal operations and research are no longer disrupted by the pandemic and travel restrictions for all international students regardless of whether they have advanced to candidacy.
2. For international students who have advanced to candidacy and are on a leave of absence due to COVID-19, the Committee recommends that the leave of absence is not counted against the three-year NRST reduction period.
3. The Committee also urges the administration to put pressure on UCOP to address this issue at the system level, including providing additional resources to the campuses to ameliorate this crisis.

The Committee on International Education calls for the Academic Senate to endorse the recommendations and for the University to take immediate action to address the issues brought forth by the graduate student members of UAW. Thank you for the opportunity to express our concerns. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at goldman@history.ucla.edu or the Committee's analyst, Emily Le, at ele@senate.ucla.edu.

Sincerely,

Andrea S. Goldman, Chair
Committee on International Education

Members of the Committee on International Education

Stephen Acabado, Anthropology

Ka-Kit Hui, Medicine

Edith Omwami, Education

Carlos Torres, Education

Thomas Newhall, Graduate Student Representative

Magdalena Barragan, Summer Session & International Education

Robin Derby, Faculty Director, History/International Institute

Sam Nahidi, Dashew Center for International Students and Scholars

cc: Gene Block, Chancellor

Emily Carter, Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost

Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Academic Senate

Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate

Onyebuchi Arah, Interim Associate Dean, Graduate Division

Estrella Arciba, Principal Analyst, Graduate Council

Sam Bersola, Assistant Vice Provost, Graduate Division

April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate

Yolanda Gorman, Chief of Staff, Office of the Chancellor

Andrea Kasko, Chair, Graduate Council

Renate Lux, Associate Dean, Graduate Division

Laurie Summers, Assistant Provost, Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost