



Mary Gauvain  
Telephone: (510) 987-0887  
Email: mary.gauvain@ucop.edu

Chair of the Assembly of the Academic Senate  
Faculty Representative to the Regents  
University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

August 2, 2021

**SUSAN CARLSON, VICE PROVOST  
ACADEMIC PERSONNEL**

**Re: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student  
*In Absentia* Registration**

Dear Susan,

As requested, I distributed for systemwide Senate review the proposed revisions to the Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration. All ten Academic Senate divisions and two systemwide committees (UCPB and CCGA) submitted comments. These comments were discussed at Academic Council's July 28 meeting and are attached for your reference.

We understand that the current policy allows graduate students to conduct research and training activities related to their degree program outside of California with an *In Absentia* status, provided they are under supervision of UC faculty. Students with *In Absentia* status pay 15% of Tuition and the Student Services Fee. The current policy allows Graduate Deans to grant special case exceptions to the requirement that students be located "outside of California." The revised policy would permit Deans to establish "a local campus region" as a new geographical limit on *In Absentia* registration, rather than limiting eligibility to students outside the state. The policy notes that it will help graduate students working outside of the local campus area to continue their degree progress while maintaining access to UC programs and services such as health insurance.

The Senate supports the policy revision to the extent that it increases flexibility and transparency and ensures more equitable and efficient implementation of the existing *In Absentia* policy. Reviewers also raised several questions and concerns that we encourage you to consider as you further develop the policy.

First, the Senate's review of this policy would have been informed by data indicating the number of graduate students with *In Absentia* status each year, and an estimate of the number of graduate students who would be eligible to apply for *In Absentia* status under the revised rules. Another question we could not answer with the materials provided is how the University calculated the

15% figure in 2009, and on what basis that figure is still relevant in 2021. These data would have enabled a clearer analysis of the policy's budgetary impact on campuses.

Senate reviewers also ask that the policy discuss the principles and mechanisms that should guide a campus's determination of its "local campus region." We agree with the reviews, which suggest that the proposed definition of "local region" should not be decided by a single Graduate Dean, as outlined in the policy. Rather, it should be based on input from the broader campus community, including departments and graduate students.

The Senate is also concerned that the *In Absentia* Policy reflects an institutional view of graduate students as sources of revenue, rather than as individuals with educational needs and goals. In this policy and other policies pertaining to graduate students, we encourage the University to consider the students' educational needs first before weighing in on the financial impact on the University. Our goal as faculty is to advance policies and initiatives that reduce financial burdens on graduate students while facilitating their degree progress. Such efforts are especially critical for students who are in the research and writing phase of their programs, the target group for this policy. This is the point in graduate study when many Ph.D. students get discouraged and are at great risk for not completing their degree.

We also encourage the University to consider the *In Absentia* Policy and other residency policies in the context of shifts to remote study during the pandemic and students' increasing ability to access UC resources remotely. We imagine alternative models for *In Absentia*, such as ones that include a lower percentage or a full waiver of tuition and fees or the elimination of the "local area" provision, that could help support students and strengthen graduate education even more. To this end, the University should perform an analysis of these alternatives and the continued relevance of the 15% tuition/fee structure in the context of budgetary costs and educational benefits.

Thank you for the opportunity to opine. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Mary Gauvain, Chair  
Academic Council

Cc: Associate Vice President Alcocer  
Operating Budget Director Diaz  
Academic Council  
Senate Directors  
Senate Executive Director Baxter

Encl.



320 STEPHENS HALL  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

July 8, 2021

MARY GAUVAIN  
Chair, Academic Council

*Subject: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student  
In Absentia Registration*

Dear Chair Gauvain:

The Graduate Council (GC) of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate was asked to review and provide comments for the proposed *Presidential Policy on Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration*. On behalf of the Divisional Council (DIVCO) of the Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate, I support the proposed policy and the enclosed comments from GC.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald Cohen".

Ronald C. Cohen  
Professor of Chemistry  
Professor of Earth and Planetary Science  
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Enclosure

cc: Mary Ann Smart, Vice Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate  
Michael Boots, Chair, Graduate Council  
Jocelyn Surla Banaria, Executive Director, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate  
Sumei Quiggle, Associate Director staffing Graduate Council



June 18, 2021

PROFESSOR RONALD COHEN  
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate

Re: GC comments on fee policy for graduate student *in absentia* registration

Dear Chair Cohen:

Graduate Council members were asked to review the proposed policy revisions and provide comments to me by email. There was general support for the revisions. The following comments and questions were also shared by individual members:

- In III.C. the first bullet indicates that students will be assessed "15 percent of the combined Tuition and Student Services Fee" and then the second bullet refers to the "FULL health insurance fees." But it is unclear from this description whether the NRST and PDST in bullets 4 and 5 will be assessed at the full level or at the 15% level. This should be clarified in the text or in the FAQ for those who are not familiar with the nuances.
- How would the policy be applied for international students or those that need to pay the "out of state" component of tuition? Would they only need to pay 15% of that component as well?
- The guidelines regarding the campus region are vague. It would be beneficial to have this more fleshed out so that there is clear guidance and consistency between campuses.
- Campuses are given leeway on how much of the campus fee they are allowed to assess to students in absentia. Some would advocate for a more firm policy and a low percentage, if campus fees are mostly for services that pertain to physical operations on campus.
- It would help to further clarify what is allowed and what is not. Is the student allowed to communicate with his/her advisor only via e-mail? What about a phone call using non-university phone equipment? What about videoconferencing using non-university facilities (e.g., using personal Skype

accounts on personally-owned phones)? Is the student allowed to use campus computer equipment remotely? That may impinge on faculty and other students who are using the same pool of equipment. The connection between "studying or in-person collaboration" and "resources or learning environment" is not clear. The two bullet points should be worded more clearly and the conditions should be stated more thoroughly, especially because remote work is quite possible within most PhD fields.

- Unless the student is a GSR on a project unrelated to his/her dissertation, how can a student be a GSR and comply with the following two provisions?:
  - Must involve only indirect supervision appropriate to evaluating the student's academic progress and performance (e.g., correspondence via e-mail or review of written work) from UC faculty during the in absentia period.
  - Must involve no significant studying or in-person collaboration with UC faculty during the in absentia period to ensure that units do not entail direct access to the resources or learning environment of any UC campus.

Sincerely,



Michael Boots  
Chair, Graduate Council

MB/scq



DAVIS DIVISION OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
ONE SHIELDS AVENUE  
DAVIS, CALIFORNIA 95616-8502  
(530) 752-2220  
academicsenate.ucdavis.edu

July 19, 2021

**Mary Gauvain**  
Chair, Academic Council

**RE:** Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration

Dear Mary,

The proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration was forwarded to all standing committees of the Davis Division of the Academic Senate. Graduate Council responded.

Graduate Council supports the proposed policy. The Davis Division appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. TUCKER".

Richard P. Tucker, Ph.D.  
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
University of California, Davis

Enclosed: Davis Division Committee Responses

c: Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, Systemwide Academic Senate  
Michael LaBriola, Assistant Director, Systemwide Academic Senate  
Edwin M. Arevalo, Executive Director, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

June 30, 2021

**Richard Tucker**

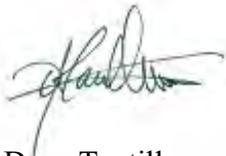
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

**RE:** Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

Dear Professor Tucker,

Graduate Council has the opportunity to review the Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. The Council had no comments on the proposed policy changes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dean Tantillo', written in a cursive style.

**Dean Tantillo**

Chair, Graduate Council Committee

June 16, 2021

Mary Gauvain, Chair  
Academic Council

**Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Revision to Presidential Policy on Graduate Student In-Absentia Registration**

Dear Chair Gauvain,

The Irvine Division Senate Cabinet discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy on Graduate Student In-Absentia Registration at its June 15, 2021 meeting. The proposed revisions were also reviewed by the Graduate Council and the Council on Planning and Budget. Cabinet members agreed with the observations made by these Councils, and their memos are enclosed here for your review.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

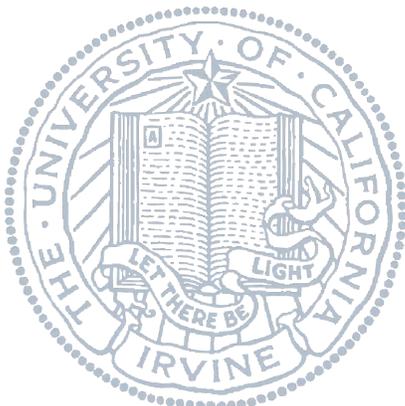
Sincerely,



Jeffrey Barrett, Chair  
Academic Senate, Irvine Division

Encl: GC & CPB memos

Cc: Joanna Ho, Chair Elect-Secretary  
Kate Brigman, Executive Director  
Gina Anzivino, Associate Director



June 11, 2021

**JEFFREY BARRETT, CHAIR**  
**ACADEMIC SENATE, IRVINE DIVISION**

**RE: Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration**

At its June 10, 2021 meeting, Graduate Council reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. The changes to the Policy would permit Graduate Deans to establish “a local campus region within which in absentia registration will not be considered” instead of limiting eligibility to students studying outside of California.

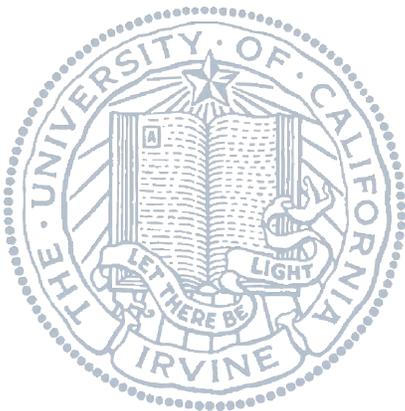
Graduate Council observes that the proposed revisions are already in practice for graduate students performing fieldwork in Anthropology and Sociology for example. The Council has no specific concerns with the Policy.

On behalf of the Graduate Council,



Arvind Rajaraman, Chair

c: Gillian Hayes, Vice Provost, Graduate Education and Dean, Graduate Division  
Ruth Quinnan, Executive Director of Graduate Admissions and Academic Affairs, Graduate Division  
Celina Mojica, Director of Academic Initiatives, Graduate Division  
Kate Brigman, Executive Director, Academic Senate  
Gina Anzivino, Associate Director, Academic Senate  
Thao Nguyen, Graduate Council Analyst



June 15, 2021

**JEFFREY BARRETT, CHAIR**  
**ACADEMIC SENATE, IRVINE DIVISION**

**RE: Systemwide Review of Proposed Revisions to the Presidential Fee Policy on Graduate Student In Absentia Registration**

At its May 26, 2021 meeting, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Fee Policy on Graduate Student In Absentia Registration.

The current policy allows registration in absentia only if the off-campus activity occurred outside of California. The revised policy changes this rule to authorize the individual campuses to establish local zones of eligibility. It was noted that the campus zone of eligibility is meant to be drawn so that in-person access to campus resources is not feasible.

The Council found the proposed revisions to be straight forward and reasonable.

As a separate issue, the Council observed that the local implementation of the revision should be done with consideration to the increasingly online nature of university operations. Although the policy specifies that it applies to students whose studies require them to reside in eligible zones and does not apply to taking online courses, it is unclear how this would apply to a student whose graduate research is entirely computational.

On behalf of the Council,



Don Senear, Chair

CC: Kate Brigman, Executive Director, Academic Senate  
Gina Anzivino, Assistant Director, Academic Senate  
Michelle Chen, CPB Analyst



# UCLA Academic Senate

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June 8, 2021

Mary Gauvain  
Chair, UC Academic Senate

**Re: (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy on Fee Policy for Graduate Student in Absentia Registration**

Dear Chair Gauvain,

The Divisional Executive Board, councils, and committees appreciated the opportunity to review the (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy on Fee Policy for Graduate Student in Absentia Registration. The Executive Board reviewed the proposal and divisional council feedback at its meeting on June 8, 2021. The Executive Board unanimously supported the proposal. Members concurred with the observations in the enclosed divisional council responses including questioning the purpose of the policy given that many resources are available remotely and online. They agreed with the idea of an assessment to evaluate campus impact following several years after any policy changes. Lastly, it would be helpful to clarify whether the intention is to have a retroactive start date given the draft policy's "Fall Term 2020" effective date.

Sincerely,



Shane White  
Chair  
UCLA Academic Senate

Encl.

Cc: Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair Elect, UCLA Academic Senate  
Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, UCLA Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, UCLA Academic Senate

June 1, 2021

To: Shane White, Chair  
Academic Senate

From: Andrea Kasko, Chair  
Graduate Council

**Re: Systemwide Senate Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration**

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At its meeting on May 21, 2021, the Graduate Council reviewed and discussed the *Proposed Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration* and offers the following observations for your consideration:

Members recognized the intent to improve equity and access, but noted that *In Absentia Registration* is problematic to enforce given that many resources are available remotely and online now, and it perhaps makes less sense than in the past due to the wider availability of resources. A radius determination may or may not matter. Members recommended consultation with the Library about post-pandemic plans for licensing, which will impact the availability of resources. Members recommended an assessment after any policy changes in several years to evaluate campus impact.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via the Graduate Council Analyst, Estrella Arciba, at [earciba@senate.ucla.edu](mailto:earciba@senate.ucla.edu).

June 1, 2021

Shane White, Chair  
Academic Senate

**Re: (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration**

Dear Chair White,

At its meeting on May 17, 2021, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) had an opportunity to review (Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. Members offered the following comments.

Members agreed with the proposed policy and with its goal. They were, however, confused by the policy's "Fall Term 2020" effective date, since it was not clear that the policy was intended to be retroactive.

If you have any questions for us, please do not hesitate to contact me at [groeling@comm.ucla.edu](mailto:groeling@comm.ucla.edu) or via the Council's analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at [efeller@senate.ucla.edu](mailto:efeller@senate.ucla.edu).

Sincerely,



Tim Groeling, Chair  
Council on Planning and Budget

cc: Jody Kreiman, Vice Chair/Chair-Elect, Academic Senate  
Michael Meranze, Immediate Past Chair, Academic Senate  
April de Stefano, Executive Director, Academic Senate  
Elizabeth Feller, Principal Policy Analyst, Council on Planning and Budget  
Members of the Council on Planning and Budget



OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION  
ROBIN DELUGAN, CHAIR, DIVISIONAL COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

**June 10, 2021**

**To: Mary Gauvain, Chair, Academic Council**

**Re: [Proposed Revision to the Fee Policy for Graduate Student \*In Absentia\* Registration](#)**

The revision to the Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration, was proposed by the Council of Graduate Deans. It would permit graduate deans to establish “a local campus region within which in absentia registration will not be considered” instead of limiting eligibility to students studying outside of California. It is anticipated that the proposed revision will increase transparency and promote more equitable application of the policy.

The Merced Division Senate and School Executive Committees were invited to comment on the proposed revised policy. Comments were received from the Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), Committee on Research (CoR), and the Graduate Council (GC). All comments are appended for your consideration.

CAPRA recommends reexamining the entirety of the policy, as well as other policies governing residency, in light of our experiences with the pandemic. CAPRA states that policies governing residency/remote work should balance the benefits of flexibility for students (and staff and faculty, in the case of other policies) with the benefit of a sense of community when people come together on campus. In consideration of resources, CAPRA observes that many of the campus resources (library, computational, virtual programs, advising by faculty advisor) can now be used by students working from anywhere due to the telework advances forced by the pandemic. CAPRA wonders if the 15% of the tuition and combined student services fees paid by *In Absentia* students would be adequate given the expanded access to “local” yet remotely accessible resources.

CoR echoes CAPRA’s recommendation to revisit policies governing residency, especially concerning students who must relocate for personal reasons (e.g., to follow a spouse’s move) but who can still continue their research and studies remotely. Additionally, CoR would appreciate clarification on whether fees traditionally covered by GSRs are also reduced by 85% when a student is on *In Absentia* status, thus producing a cost savings to the grantors of these GSRs. GC also suggests further clarification of the policy. In regard to students’ access to UC campus resources, Sections II and III of the proposed policy seem to provide differing definitions of “campus resources.”

A Divisional Council member commented that the Graduate Dean's determination of the "local campus region" should be made in consultation with the Graduate Council. The member also suggested that there be a clearer distinction between the *In Absentia* status and the Leave of Absence.

The Merced Division thanks you for the opportunity to review this policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robin M. DeLugan".

Robin DeLugan  
Chair, Divisional Council  
UC Merced

Cc: DivCo Members  
Hilary Baxter, Systemwide Senate Executive Director  
Michael LaBriola, Systemwide Senate Assistant Director  
UCM Senate Office

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION  
COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC PLANNING AND RESOURCE ALLOCATION  
PATTI LIWANG, CHAIR  
pliwang@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED  
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD  
MERCED, CA 95343

**May 24, 2021**

**To:** Robin DeLugan, Chair, Division Council

**From:** Patricia LiWang, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation  
(CAPRA)

**Re:** Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration

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The policy reduces Tuition and Student Service Fees to 15% of the total cost for students working “*In absentia*,” with the rationale: “This reflects that student in absentia have less access to UC resources than do other UC students, but continue to utilize some level of advising and other University resources to facilitate timely academic progress toward degree completion.” The previous version defines “*in absentia*” as outside of California. Students living in California, but not in Merced, have sometimes received exceptions. The proposed change to the policy would replace the “outside of California” definition with “a local campus region within which *in absentia* registration is granted.” This would result in the policy being applied more equitably and reduce the number of exceptions.

CAPRA agrees with taking action that enables more equitable and efficient implementation of the policy. However, CAPRA feels that the entire policy needs to be revisited (along with several other policies governing residency) in light of our experiences with the pandemic. Future policies should balance the benefits of flexibility for students (and staff and faculty, in the case of other policies) with the benefit of a sense of community when people come together on campus. For example, we note that many of the campus’s resources (library, computational, virtual programs, advising by faculty advisor) can now be used by students working from anywhere due to the advances in telework that were forced by the pandemic. If we enable reduced tuition/fees CAPRA believes that more students would choose to work *in absentia*. This may be appropriate in some cases, but the policy needs to be revisited with the broader concerns in mind. We note that if all graduate students working remotely in this past year paid only 15% tuition and fees, it would have had a significant impact on university resources even though those students would have retained the same benefits that in residence students experienced in 2020-2021.

We appreciate the opportunity to opine.

cc: Senate Office

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

ACADEMIC SENATE, MERCED DIVISION  
COMMITTEE ON RESEARCH  
KARA MCCLOSKEY, CHAIR  
kmcloskey@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED  
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD  
MERCED, CA 95343

**May 24, 2021**

**To:** Robin DeLugan, Chair, Division Council

**From:** Kara McCloskey, Chair, Committee on Research (COR)

**Re:** Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration

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CoR reviewed the proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration. Our comments are below.

Regarding the requirements of *in absentia* status, what about students who must relocate for personal reasons (e.g., to follow a spouse's move), but who can still continue their research and studies remotely? This scenario does not appear to be addressed by this policy.

Will fees traditionally covered by GSRs also be reduced by 85%, thus producing a cost savings to the grantors of these GSRs?

We appreciate the opportunity to opine.

cc: Senate Office

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE  
HRANT HRATCHIAN, CHAIR, GRADUATE COUNCIL  
hhratchian@ucmerced.edu

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED  
5200 NORTH LAKE ROAD  
MERCED, CA 95343

**MAY 24, 2021**

**TO: ROBIN DELUGAN, CHAIR, DIVISIONAL COUNCIL**

**FROM: HRANT HRATCHIAN, CHAIR, GRADUATE COUNCIL**

**RE: PROPOSED REVISION TO THE FEE POLICY FOR GRADUATE STUDENT IN ABSENTIA REGISTRATION**

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Graduate Council (GC) has reviewed [the proposed revision](#) to the presidential policy, the Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration. The revision, proposed by the Council of Graduate Deans, would permit graduate deans to establish “a local campus region within which in absentia registration will not be considered” instead of limiting eligibility to students studying outside of California. It is GC’s understanding that, currently, graduate students can register *In Absentia* while planning to stay in California if their individual requests for exception are approved by their campus’s graduate dean.

GC concurs with the Council of Graduate Deans and Provost Brown that the proposed revision will increase transparency and promote more equitable application of the policy. GC wonders, however, if the definition of a “Local Campus Region” may need further clarification. Specifically, the policy document, in Section II, defines the Local Campus Region as an area “beyond which students could not easily access campus resources.” In contrast, in Section III.A., it is stated that the *In Absentia* units a student accrues while registered in absentia may not “entail direct access to the resources or learning environment **of any UC campus**” (emphasis added). Does this mean that, for example, a UC Merced student who conducts field research in Northern California and collaborates with a researcher at UC Davis or UC Berkeley would not qualify for the in absentia status?

Graduate Council appreciates the opportunity to opine.

CC: Graduate Council  
Senate Office

Encl (0)



CHAIR, ACADEMIC SENATE  
RIVERSIDE DIVISION  
UNIVERSITY OFFICE BUILDING, RM 225

JASON STAJICH  
PROFESSOR OF BIOINFORMATICS  
RIVERSIDE, CA 92521-0217  
TEL: (951) 827-6193  
EMAIL: JASON.STAJICH@UCR.EDU

June 15, 2021

Mary Gauvain, Chair, Academic Council  
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

**RE: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration**

Dear Mary,

I write to provide the Riverside Division's response to the *Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration* and so have attached memos from Divisional standing and faculty executive committees.

Sincerely yours,

*/s/ Jason Stajich*

Professor of Bioinformatics and Chair of the Riverside Division

CC: Hilary Baxter, Executive Director of the Academic Senate  
Cherysa Cortez, Executive Director of UCR Academic Senate Office



*Academic Senate*

**GRADUATE COUNCIL**

May 20, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Amanda Lucia, Chair  
Graduate Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amanda Lucia".

Re: [Systemwide Review] Proposed Revisions to Policy: Presidential Policy-Fee  
Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

Graduate Council reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration at their May 20, 2021 meeting. The Council was supportive of the proposed policy revisions.



**PLANNING & BUDGET**

May 18, 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Katherine Kinney, Chair   
Committee on Planning and Budget

**RE: [Systemwide Review] Proposed Revisions to Policy: Presidential Policy-Fee  
Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration**

Planning & Budget (P&B) discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration at their May 18, 2021 meeting. P&B is supportive of the revisions to the policy.

June 3, 2021

TO: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Academic Senate

FROM: Philip Brisk, Chair   
BCOE Executive Committee

RE: Proposed Revisions to Presidential Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration

Dear Jason,

The BCOE Executive Committee reviewed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration. The revised policy seems reasonable.

The Committee noted that the effective date for this policy is Fall 2020; since it was well into 2021 before this document was disseminated for review, the role of shared governance vis-à-vis review of this policy seems superficial. The Committee feels quite strongly that policies should be reviewed prior to a preliminary implementation, not post-hoc.



College of Humanities, Arts, and  
Social Sciences  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

May 19, 2021

TO: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division of the Academic Senate

FROM: Lucille Chia, Chair *Lucille Chia*  
CHASS Executive Committee

RE: Proposed Revisions to Policy: Presidential Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate  
Student in Absentia Registration

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The CHASS Executive Committee discussed the Proposed Revisions to Policy: Presidential Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate Student in Absentia Registration at the regular meeting on May 19, 2021 via Zoom. The committee supports the proposed revisions to the policy.



5 June 2021

To: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division

From: Theodore Garland, Jr., Chair, Executive Committee  
College of Natural and Agricultural Science

Re: Systemwide Review: Proposed Revisions to Policy: Presidential  
Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

We have no comments on this.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Garland".



School of Medicine  
Division of Biomedical Sciences  
Riverside, CA, 92521

## School of Medicine

May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021

**To:** Jason Stajich, Ph.D., Chair, Academic Senate, UCR Division

**From:** Declan McCole, Ph.D., Chair, Faculty Executive Committee, UCR School of Medicine

**Subject:** SOM FEC Response to Presidential Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate Student in  
Absentia Registration

Dear Jason,

The SOM Faculty Executive Committee has reviewed the Presidential Policy on Fees for Graduate Student in Absentia Registration. We agree with the proposal to include students performing scholarly research within California but outside the local campus region – as determined by the Graduate Dean – to receive the reduced tuition and Student Services fees set at 15%. We have no additional comments.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Declan McCole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Declan F. McCole, Ph.D.  
Chair, Faculty Executive Committee  
School of Medicine



**School of Public Policy**  
University of California, Riverside  
INTS 4133 | 900 University Ave  
Riverside, CA 92521

TO: Jason Stajich, Chair  
Riverside Division

FR: Richard M. Carpiano, Chair  
Executive Committee, School of Public Policy

RE: [Systemwide Review] Proposed Revisions to Policy: Presidential Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

Date: June 4, 2021

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The Executive Committee of the School of Public Policy reviewed the document “[Systemwide Review] Proposed Revisions to Policy: Presidential Policy-Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. We have no concerns with the proposed revisions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard M. Carpiano". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard M. Carpiano, Ph.D., M.P.H.  
Professor of Public Policy and Sociology



# UC SANTA BARBARA

Academic Senate  
Susannah Scott, Chair  
Shasta Delp, Executive Director

1233 Girvetz Hall  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-3050  
<http://www.senate.ucsb.edu>

July 21, 2021

To: Mary Gauvain, Chair  
Academic Senate

From: Susannah Scott, Chair  
Santa Barbara Division

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Susannah L. Scott".

Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student In  
Absentia Registration

The Santa Barbara Division distributed the proposed revised policy to the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB), Graduate Council (GC), Committee on Diversity and Equity (CDE), Committee on International Education (CIE), and the Faculty Executive Committees (FECs) of the College of Letters and Science (L&S), College of Engineering (COE), Gevirtz Graduate School of Education (GGSE), and the Bren School of Environmental Science and Management (BREN). The Committee on International Education opted not to opine. Each individual response is attached for your review. Overall, the Santa Barbara Division supports the revised fee policy, and offers the following comments below.

The L&S FEC emphasizes the need for additional guidance on how to determine what constitutes a "local campus region." The Committee also recognizes the substantial financial burden placed on many of our graduate students, and advocates for an even lower fee percentage – or even a fully waived *in absentia option* - in the future. CPB indicates the desirability of a fiscal analysis based on the number of graduate students who are *in absentia* each year, and the number of these students who would be eligible to apply for *in absentia* status. These figures could help give a clearer justification for the policy change. CPB also suggests that it may be inequitable to charge campus-based fees for students who register *in absentia*, and requests additional justification for why such students cannot collaborate with faculty at UC campuses other than their home institution. Finally, CPB expresses concern that this policy seemingly took effect nine months ago, before undergoing the proper review process.

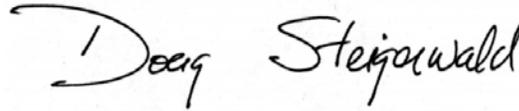
We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
**ACADEMIC SENATE**  
**SANTA BARBARA DIVISION**  
Council on Planning & Budget

May 26, 2021

To: Susannah Scott, Divisional Chair  
UCSB Academic Senate

From: Douglas Steigerwald, Chair  
Council on Planning & Budget



Re: Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration

The Council on Planning & Budget (CPB) has reviewed the proposed Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration (the Policy). In general the Policy seems beneficial to both the University and graduate students in reducing the number of students with status lapse. The Policy aims at eliminating both requests and processing of “reinstate” petitions and thus simplifying administrative workflows.

Briefly, this Policy allows (i) PhD students who have advanced to candidacy and (ii) Master’s and graduate professional degree students who have completed one year of coursework to conduct research and training activities directly related to their degree program outside their local campus region with an “in absentia” status, provided that they are under indirect supervision of UC faculty. The students in this status need to pay only 15% of the combined tuition and student services fee; however, they have to pay the full health insurance fees, campus-based fees, and applicable nonresident tuition and professional degree supplemental tuition. These students are eligible for University fellowships and research assistantships and their “in absentia” duration counts towards the residency requirement.

The Policy was originally issued in 2009, and the draft under review is a revision. The primary change is to replace the location of research and coursework being “outside of California” by “outside of the local campus region” determined by the graduate deans of the local campus.

The Council is generally supportive of this policy. There are, however, several points that need to be considered further.

First, the current draft does not include a document that provides a fiscal analysis such as the number of students who are in the “in absentia” status each year, the expected number of students who will possibly apply for “in absentia” status, etc. These numbers could give a clear justification of the revised policy.

Second, the reduced cost is only for the tuition and student services fees. Given that the students are not expected to be on campus, it may not be equitable to ask the students to pay campus-based fees.

Third, the Policy allows the students to take courses from non-UC schools but not to study or to collaborate in-person with UC faculty in any UC campus. There is no clear justification of the latter, e.g., for faculty in a non-home campus.

Finally, the Policy is intended to take effect roughly 9 months ago. This is either a typo or an indication that the reviews of these proposed policy changes are not being executed in a timely fashion.

cc: Shasta Delp, Academic Senate Executive Director

**Academic Senate  
Santa Barbara Division**

June 3, 2021

To: Susannah Scott, Divisional Chair  
Academic Senate

From: Tamara Afifi, Chair  
Graduate Council



**Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration**

At its meeting of May 17, 2021, Graduate Council reviewed the Proposed Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. This has already been in place on campuses, and UCSB's Graduate Division is in support of this policy as it has been very helpful to students. Graduate Council voted unanimously to support the proposed fee policy.

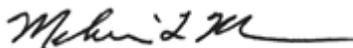
CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

**Academic Senate  
Santa Barbara Division**

June 22, 2021

To: Susannah Scott, Divisional Chair  
Academic Senate

From: Melissa L. Morgan, Chair  
Committee on Diversity and Equity



**Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration**

The Committee on Diversity and Equity (CDE) reviewed the Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student in Absentia Registration. Overall, members see this change as opening up accessibility and flexibility for students, especially given the high cost of living in the Santa Barbara area. This change will also help students grappling with delayed research due to COVID-19. CDE supports the proposed fee policy.

CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

May 27, 2021

To: Susannah Scott  
Chair, Divisional Academic Senate

From: Sabine Frühstück  
Chair, L&S Faculty Executive Committee



Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student  
In Absentia Registration

At its meeting on May 20, 2021, the Faculty Executive Committee of the College of Letters and Science (FEC) reviewed the proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. The proposed change gives each campus Graduate Dean the flexibility to determine a narrower region for exclusion of eligibility for 15% in-absentia fee status, rather than basing exclusion on binary in-state/out-of-state status.

The committee expresses general support for this increase in flexibility for our graduate students who may benefit from seeking in-absentia status, with a few comments.

One concern raised was the lack of guidance relating to what constitutes a “local campus region.” Acknowledging that the policy gives each campus Graduate Dean the freedom to define said region based on local geographies, the committee feels it would still be appropriate to provide clearer guidance on general distances or transit times that represent “access to substantially fewer instructional resources and student services.”

The committee also recognizes the substantial financial burden placed on many of our graduate students, and wishes to voice its support for a lower fee percentage – or even a fully waived – in-absentia option in the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

cc: Pierre Wiltzius, Executive Dean of the College and Dean of Science  
Jeffrey Stoppel, Associate Vice Chancellor and Dean of Undergraduate Education  
Mary Hancock, Acting Dean of Humanities and Fine Arts  
Charlie Hale, Dean of Social Sciences

May 18, 2021

TO: Susannah Scott  
Divisional Chair, Academic Senate

FROM: Pradeep Sen, Chair  
College of Engineering, Faculty Executive Committee

DocuSigned by:  
*Pradeep Sen*  
4CC5BF671D9549E...

RE: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate  
Student In Absentia Registration

The College of Engineering FEC met on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 and reviewed the policy and the proposed modifications. The committee supports the approval of the proposed changes.

June 7, 2021

To: Susannah Scott, Chair  
Academic Senate

From: Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj, Vice Chair  
Faculty Executive Committee, GGSE

Re: Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

The Faculty Executive Committee of the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education supports the proposed policy change.



UC **SANTA BARBARA**  
Bren School of Environmental  
Science & Management

2400 Bren Hall  
UC Santa Barbara  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-5131  
[bren.ucsb.edu](http://bren.ucsb.edu)

June 29, 2021

TO: Susannah Scott, Academic Senate Chair

FR: Mark Buntaine, Bren School Faculty Executive Committee Chair

RE: Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

The Bren School Faculty Executive Committee chair supports the proposed changes to the *in absentia* policy for UC graduate students. Thank you for your consideration.



1156 HIGH STREET  
SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95064

Office of the Academic Senate  
SANTA CRUZ DIVISION  
125 CLARK KERR HALL  
(831) 459 - 2086

July 16, 2021

Mary Gauvain, Chair  
Academic Council

**Re: Systemwide Fee Policy for Graduate Students In Absentia Registration**

Dear Mary,

The Santa Cruz Division has reviewed the proposed revisions to the *Fee Policy for Graduate Students In Absentia Registration*. Our Committees on Affirmative Action and Diversity (CAAD), Graduate Council (GC), and Planning and Budget (CPB) responded. Proposed revisions to the policy include changes to language that would permit Graduate Deans to establish “a local campus region within which in absentia registration will not be considered,” instead of limiting eligibility to students outside of California, as with current policy.

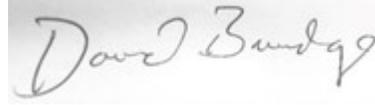
All three reviewing committees expressed support for the proposed revisions. Graduate Council noted that the policy will take into account the local context and will better meet the needs of graduate students at each campus. The proposed policy change also has the potential to reduce the number of exception requests to the Graduate Division, thus increasing equity in applicability of the policy.

Graduate Council suggests that the process and decision for defining the region/boundary for In Absentia registration should be undertaken as a *collaboration between the Graduate Dean and the Graduate Council at each campus*, rather than be solely left to the Graduate Dean. This would provide broader disciplinary perspectives on what the region boundary should look like at each campus, and help create a more equitable campus policy. CAAD suggests that each campus consider the high cost of living as a reason for narrowly defining the local campus region, in order to ensure that graduate students are not incurring substantial housing debt when living near the campus where rents may be high. CAAD also recommends that graduate students in absentia should still be entitled access to UC Library services, especially as they conduct research while in absentia.

CPB more pointedly addressed issues beyond the current revisions for review, and suggested a tension between graduate education as intrinsic to a public R1 university and graduate education as a revenue generating enterprise. This has implications for graduate students in terms of affordability. CPB suggests the campus should consider a structure that prioritizes support to increase affordability for graduate students at the phase of research/writing, placing student educational needs first. CPB also suggests that accessibility and local region vary—for example a student in the lab sciences who has completed their lab work might benefit from in absentia status even if they remain within the local region. Similarly, defining “easy” access can vary for students, even if they are living in the same geographic region.

The Santa Cruz Division appreciates the opportunity to comment on the proposed changes to the *Fee Policy for Graduate Students In Absentia Registration*.

Sincerely,  
David Brundage, Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Brundage". The signature is written in a cursive style and is centered within a light gray rectangular box.

Academic Senate  
Santa Cruz Division

cc: Donald Smith, Chair, Graduate Council  
Dard Neuman, Chair, Committee on Planning and Budget  
Sylvanna Falcón, Chair, Committee on Affirmative Action and Diversity



OFFICE OF THE ACADEMIC SENATE

9500 GILMAN DRIVE  
LA JOLLA, CALIFORNIA 92093-0002  
TELEPHONE: (858) 534-3640  
FAX: (858) 534-4528

June 21, 2021

Professor Mary Gauvain  
Chair, Academic Senate  
University of California  
VIA EMAIL

Re: Divisional Review of the Fee Policy for Graduate Student *in Absentia* Registration

Dear Professor Gauvain,

The proposed revisions to the Fee Policy for Graduate Student *in Absentia* Registration were distributed to San Diego Divisional Senate standing committees and discussed at the June 14, 2021 Divisional Senate Council meeting. Senate Council endorsed the proposal, and provided the following comments.

It was suggested that rather than leaving the definition of “local campus area” solely to the discretion of one individual on each campus (the Graduate Dean), the proposed definition could be submitted for consideration to the broader campus community, including Department Chairs and graduate student representatives, to arrive at a more uniform definition or rubric for defining the region. A question was raised about how the 15% reduction of tuition and fees was calculated in 2009, and whether that level of reduction remains sensible and equitable in 2021, considering many campus systems have been substantially upgraded since then so the actual cost of these students may be less now.

The responses from the Divisional Committee on Planning and Budget and Graduate Council are attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Constable".

Steven Constable  
Chair  
San Diego Divisional Academic Senate

Attachments

cc: Tara Javidi, Vice Chair, San Diego Divisional Academic Senate  
Ray Rodriguez, Director, San Diego Divisional Academic Senate  
Hilary Baxter, Executive Director, UC Systemwide Academic Senate

May 27, 2021

STEVEN CONSTABLE, CHAIR  
Academic Senate, San Diego Division

SUBJECT: UC Policy for Graduate Student in Absentia Registration

The CPB endorses the proposal to amend the policy for graduate students in absentia registration to expand the definition of "in absentia" to work locations outside of the local area. This is clearly a sensible and overdue amendment that will reduce administrative work for graduate school staff, department staff, and affected graduate students.

The committee had one suggestion and one question. The suggestion was not to leave the definition of "local campus area" solely to the discretion of one individual on each campus (the Graduate Dean) - a policy likely to create haphazard differences between campuses. Instead, either the proposed definition could be submitted for comment to each local campus community for a period of feedback prior to adaptation, or Graduate Deans, in consultation with Department Chairs and graduate student representatives, could arrive at a more uniform definition or rubric for defining the region.

The question was how the reduction to 15% of tuition and fees was selected in 2009, and whether that level of reduction remains sensible and equitable in 2021. Perhaps, for example, campus systems have been upgraded so substantially that the actual cost of these students is far less than 15%, so the students or their funding sources (departments, grants) are being overcharged. We encourage the UCOP to examine examples of graduate fee structures across campuses, disaggregated into services that are or are not accessible remotely, to determine whether the discounted rate of 15% is fair to graduate students, departments, and other stakeholders.

Sincerely,

Kwai Ng, Chair  
Committee on Planning & Budget

cc: T. Javidi

May 21, 2021

**PROFESSOR STEVEN CONSTABLE, Chair**  
**Academic Senate, San Diego Division**

SUBJECT: Review of UC Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

At its May 10, 2021 meeting, the Graduate Council reviewed the proposed revisions to the UC Presidential Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. The Council endorsed the proposed changes and had no comments.

Sincerely,

Lynn Russell, Chair  
Graduate Council

cc: B. Cowan  
T. Javidi  
J. Lucius  
R. Rodriguez

**Office of the Academic Senate**

500 Parnassus Ave, MUE 230  
San Francisco, CA 94143-0764

Campus Box 0764  
tel.: 415/514-2696

[academic.senate@ucsf.edu](mailto:academic.senate@ucsf.edu)  
<https://senate.ucsf.edu>

Sharmila Majumdar, PhD, Chair  
Steven Cheung, MD, Vice Chair  
Pamela Ling, MD, Secretary  
Jae Woo Lee, MD, Parliamentarian

July 13, 2021

Mary Gauvain, PhD  
Chair, Academic Council  
Systemwide Academic Senate  
University of California Office of the President  
1111 Franklin St., 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200

**Re: Comments on the Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student  
*In Absentia* Registration**

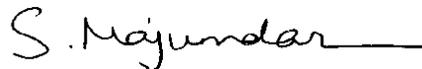
Dear Mary:

UCSF's Graduate Council reviewed amendments to proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration. It is our understanding that the change would permit graduate deans to establish “a local campus region within which in absentia registration will not be considered” instead of limiting eligibility to students studying outside of California. This should lower the number of ‘exceptions’ that are currently regularly granted by graduate deans.

After reviewing the change in the fee policy, our Graduate Council found them fully appropriate, and would allow the policy to be more equitably applied.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this review. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



Sharmila Majumdar, PhD, 2019-21 Chair  
UCSF Academic Senate

Enclosures (1)

Cc: Dyché Mullins, PhD, Graduate Council Chair



University of California  
San Francisco

**R. Dyche Mullins, Ph.D.**  
Professor  
Cell. and Molec. Pharmacol.

Investigator  
Howard Hughes Medical Inst.

Mail:  
Genentech Hall  
UCSF School of Medicine  
600 16<sup>th</sup> Street  
San Francisco 94107-2200

Telephone:  
415-502-4838

FAX:  
415-476-5233

E-mail:  
dyche.mullins@ucsf.edu

July 1, 2021

Sharmila Marjumdar, PhD  
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate

Re: (Systemwide Senate Review) Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia*  
Registration

Dear Chair Marjumdar,

The UCSF Graduate Council met on Thursday (06/17/21), and discussed the Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration. Graduate Council appreciates the changes put forth by the Council of Graduate Deans and that these changes will allow the policy to be more equitably applied.

Graduate Council finds the proposed fee policy appropriate.

Thank you for your attention,

R. Dyche Mullins  
Chair, UCSF Graduate Council



UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND BUDGET (UCPB)  
Sean Malloy, Chair  
[smalloy@ucmerced.edu](mailto:smalloy@ucmerced.edu)

Assembly of the Academic Senate  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94607-5200  
Phone: (510) 987-9466  
Fax: (510) 763-0309

July 16, 2021

**MARY GAUVAIN, CHAIR  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

**RE: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration**

Dear Mary,

On July 6, 2021, Systemwide Committee on Planning and Budget (CPB) reviewed the Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration. The current policy calls for students who are doing approved coursework and/or research outside of California to pay 15% of Tuition and Student Services Fees in order to register and maintain access to “certain University programs and services such as health insurance.” At present, students who do approved coursework and/or research inside California are not eligible to register In Absentia unless they request and are granted exceptions. This proposal is to give campuses the authority to determine whether these exceptions can be campus norms: in effect, each campus could determine if it wants a policy to grant In Absentia registration eligibility to all graduate students doing approved work away from their home campus but still within California. UCPB supports the proposed change as it will streamline a current practice that is cumbersome and that draws somewhat arbitrary lines between research that is conducted within and without California.

Some UCPB members wondered if the In Absentia policy could go even further to ameliorate financial burdens for graduate students research needs and lower time-to-degree by: 1) lowering the 15% even further; and 2) eliminating the “local area” provision. UCPB notes that the documents contain a tension between viewing graduate education: a) as intrinsic to an R1 public university; and b) as an enterprise that provides revenue to the University. This tension has important implications on how the policy impacts graduate students. On the one hand, the rationale given for the policy is expressed in terms of support for graduate students and their graduate education: to help graduate students “make continued progress towards their degree while maintaining access to certain University programs and services such as health insurance.” On the other hand, a rationale is also given that suggests the In Absentia policy is a mechanism to keep students in a tuition-tethered structure so as not to lose revenue. This is expressed in a response to a FAQ concerning what is meant by special cases: “Deans are expected to be very judicious in granting exceptions, since granting exceptions has fiscal ramifications: students who normally would pay full tuition and fees

will bring in less revenue for the University when they pay only 15 percent of Tuition and Student Services Fee” (p. 6).

Given that In Absentia is typically granted when graduate students have completed their coursework and are working towards their thesis research and writing, UCPB wonders if this is precisely the wrong stage to be considering graduate students as a source of revenue: In Absentia is a period when students are not employed as Academic Student Employees (ASE), so it is also a period when students might have to self-fund (if not supported by departments or faculty with fellowships, GSRships or their own external funding). For students who fall in that category, the In Absentia policy might very well be prohibitive, with a main impact of extending their time-to-degree if they have to pay it out of pocket, or lose connections with their advisors by going on a leave of absence. Especially with regard to doctoral students, UCPB believes that once they have passed all required coursework and qualifying exams, and are solely focused on completing their dissertations, UC’s administrative structures should be organized to facilitate this outcome, at the most optimal pace and lowest cost to students that is possible.

UCPB also questions the new language that defines the Local Campus Region: namely, as an area “defined by the graduate dean beyond which students could not easily access campus resources.” For students who have completed all their research (fieldwork or lab work) and need an exclusive focus on publications/dissertation to finish, their best path to degree completion might include rarely or never coming to campus, and utilizing only online research resources: their exact geographical location or proximity to campus would be irrelevant. Thinking about In Absentia in terms of graduate student educational needs first, rather than in terms of revenue provided by students, might lead to other policy changes that could strengthen graduate education at UC.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sean Malloy', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Sean Malloy, Chair  
UCPB

Encl.

cc: UCPB



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

Amr El Abbadi, Chair  
[amr@cs.ucsb.edu](mailto:amr@cs.ucsb.edu)

ACADEMIC SENATE

University of California  
1111 Franklin Street, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, California 94607-5200

May 12, 2021

**ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR MARY GAUVAIN**

Dear Chair Gauvain,

At its May 5 meeting, CCGA discussed the proposed revisions to the *In Absentia* Policy for graduate students. The committee feels that – as AVP Alcocer wrote – the changes proposed largely formalize a practice that has been in place routinely on the campuses. CCGA also feels that the revisions will make the policy more transparent and accessible to students.

The committee suggests that the graduate deans be asked to consult the local graduate councils on the definition of the “local campus region.” Graduate Councils have wide interdisciplinary representation across the campuses, and might provide valuable insights.

CCGA appreciates the opportunity to weigh in on this matter. If you have any questions or need additional clarification, please do not hesitate to ask.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amr El Abbadi".

Amr El Abbadi  
CCGA Chair

cc: Robert Horwitz, Academic Council Vice Chair  
CCGA Members  
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director  
Michael LaBriola, Academic Senate Assistant Director