Executive Board

Letter of Demand_ Extension to Graduate Waiver of Non-Resident Supplementary Tuition

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October 1, 2020

Gregg Goldman  
Vice Chancellor/Chief Financial Officer  

Susan Ettner  
Interim Dean of Graduate Education  

Re: Committee on International Education Letter on Non-Residential Supplemental Tuition Waiver

Dear Vice Chancellor Goldman and Interim Dean Ettner,

The Committee on International Education (CIE) of the UCLA Academic Senate sent a “Letter of Demand: Extension to Graduate Waiver of Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition” to you, and to me, dated September 22, 2020. The CIE letter stated:

“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.”

At its meeting on October 1, 2020, the Executive Board reviewed the CIE letter. In matters other than legislation, the Executive Board usually acts for the UCLA Division of the Academic Senate. After discussion, the members decided to send a letter to you regarding the CIE letter, described above.

Regarding point 1, above, the Executive Board members recommended a one-year extension of the post-advancement to candidacy (ATC) Nonresident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) waiver due to the ongoing pandemic. However, we ask for clarification as to the fiscal impact and the location of funding sources to cover lost NRST. Without a systemwide response, and an unknown duration of the pandemic, an open-ended commitment appears imprudent.
Executive Board members agreed with point 2, above; it is only reasonable to not count approved leaves of absence due to COVID-19 to the three-year NRST reduction period. Lastly, members agreed that point 3 above is best addressed at a systemwide level.

Sincerely,

Shane N White
Chair, UCLA Academic Senate

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
    Andrea Goldman, Chair, Committee on International Education (CIE)
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
LETTER OF DEMAND:
Extension to Graduate Waiver of Non-Resident Supplemental Tuition

USE THIS LINK TO SIGN THE LETTER

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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373. Julia Kulewicz, MSW Student, Lusk School of Public Affairs; MSW
374. Albert Chung, PhD Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
375. Gabriela Medeiros de Pinho, PhD Candidate, EEB
376. Shalanda Grier, PhD Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
377. Naveen Kanalu Ramamurthy, PhD Candidate, History
378. Desmond T Fonseca, PhD Student, History
379. Avery Weinman, PhD Student, History
380. Max Daniel, PhD Candidate, History
381. Colleen Hanson, PhD Student, Philosophy
382. Calvin Howes, PhD Student, Atmospheric and Oceanic Science
383. Jung Suk Lee, PhD Student, Philosophy
384. Benjamin Davis, PhD Student, Classics
385. Marco Sandoval Belmar, PhD Student, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
386. Sarah Worden, PhD Student, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
387. Jeffrey Dymond, PhD Candidate, History
388. Kim Johnston, PhD Student, Philosophy
389. Rachel C Morrison, PhD Student, Classics
390. Kenji Hayashi, PhD Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
391. Zhan Shi, MA Student, AOS
392. Jasmine A. Akiyama-Kim, PhD Student, Classics
393. Abigail Thornton, PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Education & Information Studies
394. Guangyuan Zhao, PhD, UCLA
395. Sida Li, PhD Student, Electrical and computer Engineering
396. Sarah Helman, PhD Student, EEB
397. Mark Nasielski, MS, Electrical Engineering
398. Seungtaek Lee, PhD Student, Philosophy
399. Nadine Tanio, PhD Spring 2020, GSEIS
400. Blanca Alvarez Caraveo, PhD student, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
401. Alexander Diones, PhD Candidate, Political Science
402. Pratyush Garg, MS Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering
403. Kushagra Rastogi, MS, Electrical and Computer Engineering
404. Vijay Ravi, PhD Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering
405. Enes Krijestorac, PhD Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering
406. Laura Thapa, PhD Student, Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences
407. Hanshen Huang, PhD Student, Electrical and Computer Engineering
408. Rohan Chetan Kapoor, MS Candidate, Computer Science
409. Aina Soley, PhD student, Spanish and Portuguese
410. Pei-Shan Chung, PhD Student, Bioengineering
411. Ching-Yu Chuang, Master student, Civil and Environmental engineering
412. Spencer Frei, PhD Candidate, Statistics
413. Tania Varela, PhD candidate, Spanish and Portuguese
414. Eduardo Diaz, PhD student, Spanish and Portuguese
415. Madison Felman-Panagotacos, PhD Candidate Spanish & Portuguese
416. Gemma Repiso, PhD candidate, Spanish and Portuguese
417. Yesenia Y Hernandez, PhD Student, Spanish & Portuguese
418. Cristian Mora, PhD Student, Spanish and Portuguese
419. Paulina Morales, PhD Candidate, Graduate School of Education and Information Studies
420. Saraliza Anzaldua, PhD student, Philosophy
421. Natalie Cherry, MS Student, BioEngineering
422. Adelmar Ramirez, PhD Candidate, Spanish and Portuguese
423. Christian De Leon, PhD Candidate, Philosophy
424. Tsang-Kai Chang, PhD Candidate, Electrical and Computer Engineering
425. John Carter, PhD Student, Spanish and Portuguese
426. Pedro Cuevas, PhD Student, Spanish & Portuguese
427. Bruno Bastos do Nascimento, Doctorate student, Music
428. Rohan Chetan Kapoor, MS Candidate, Computer Science
429. Andrew Flynn, PhD Candidate, Philosophy
430. Rhonda Sharrah, PhD student, English
431. Madeline Cowen, PhD Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
432. Eli Sadovnik, PhD Student, Mathematics
433. Raymond Chu, PhD Student, Math
434. Ben Johnsrude, PhD Student, Mathematics
435. Thierry Laurens, PhD student, Mathematics
436. Yuejiao Sun, PhD Candidate, Mathematics
437. Janice R. Levi, PhD Candidate, History
438. Daniel Raban, PhD Student, Mathematics
439. Tatiana Sulovska, PhD Student, History
440. Michelle Medrado, PhD Student, Spanish and Portuguese
441. Ben Szczesny, PhD Student, Mathematics
442. Samantha Jensen, PhD Student, Human Genetics
443. Enueme Amaka, MS, Bioengineering
444. Joo Kyeong Kim, PhD Student, Spanish and Portuguese
445. Cecelia Higgins, PhD Student, Mathematics
446. Kelcie Lorena Chiquillo, PhD Candidate, EEB
447. Indraneel Tambe, PhD student, Mathematics
448. Madie Dunlap, MA Student, Spanish & Portuguese
449. Anthony Meyer, PhD Candidate, Art History
450. Clive L. Lau, PhD Student, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
451. Daniel Abbe, PhD Candidate, Art History
452. Yu-Ching Hsiao, PhD student, Mechanical engineering
453. Adina Matisoff, PhD Candidate, Geography
454. Sofia Pitouli, MA/PhD Student, Art History
455. Yen-Ju Lin, PhD student, ECE
456. Sayantan Mukhopadhyay, PhD Candidate, Art History
457. Joanna Szupinska, PhD Student, Art History
458. Sara Markowitz, PhD student, Psychology
459. Amy Crum, PhD Student, Art History
460. Meng Du, PhD student, Psychology
461. Nicholas Ichien, PhD Student, Psychology
462. Toni Boltz, PhD Student, Human Genetics
463. Ryan Grgurich, PhD Student, Psychology
464. Jonathan Banfill, PhD Candidate, Education
465. Maureen Gray, PhD Candidate, Psychology
466. Gabriel Locke Suchodolski, PhD Candidate, Sociology
467. Lesley Thulin, PhD Candidate, English
468. Jodie Miller, PhD Student, French
469. Kyle Bijan Rosen, PhD Student, ELTS
470. Gurleen Bal, PhD Student, Physics
471. Tristan Tibbe, PhD Student, Psychology
472. Jason Chin, PhD Student, Psychology
473. Brandon Green, PhD candidate, Ftvdm
474. Laura Munoz, PhD Candidate, Spanish and Portuguese
475. Julia M Schorn, PhD Student, Psychology
476. Yeohoon Choi, PhD Candidate, Art History
477. Jiajin Li, PhD Candidate, Human Genetics
478. Suryansu Guha, PhD, FTVDM
479. JoAnna Reyes Walton, PhD Candidate, Art History
480. Rebecca Wolff, PhD Candidate, Art History
481. William Davis, PhD Candidate, Architecture and Urban Planning
482. Caroline Reilly, PhD Candidate, Sociology
483. Pablo Geraldo, PhD Student, Sociology
484. Karime Castillo, PhD Candidate, Archaeology
485. Joy Zhu, PhD Student, Architecture
486. Chi-Chia Hou, PhD Student, Architecture and Urban Design
487. Sandy Xu, PhD Student, Sociology
488. Brianna McKenna, PhD Student, Sociology
489. Zhenxiang Chen, PhD Candidate, Sociology
490. Pei Palmgren, PhD Candidate, Sociology
491. Oscar Contreras, PhD Student, Sociology
492. Taylor Aquino, PhD Student, Sociology
493. Christina Wilmot, PhD Student, Sociology
494. Rohan Advani, PhD Student, Sociology
495. Megan Meulemans, PhD Candidate, Architecture and Urban Design
496. Harleen Kaur, PhD Candidate, Sociology
497. Andrew Chalfoun, PhD Student, Sociology
498. Bowei Hu, PhD Student, Sociology
499. Johanna Hernández Pérez, PhD Student, Sociology
500. Clara Hanson, PhD Candidate, Sociology
501. Dexter Walcott, PhD Student, Sociology
502. Joseph Weinger, PhD Student, Sociology
503. Luis Manuel Olguin Valencia, PhD Candidate, Sociology
504. Sera Kwon, PhD Student, Sociology
505. Oscar J Mayorga, PhD Candidate, Sociology
506. Abraham Calderon, PhD Candidate, Sociology
507. Ariel Stevenson, PhD Candidate, TFT
508. Adam Burnstine, PhD Student, Theater Film and Television
509. Natalia Toledo Melendez, PhD Student, Sociology
510. Jennifer Uribe, PhD Student, Sociology
511. Sam Lutzker, PhD Student, Sociology
512. Alexx Apicella, PhD Student, CMS
513. Krystal Ledesma, PhD Student, TFT
514. Natasha Bluth, PhD Student, Sociology
515. Kristella Montiegel, PhD Student, Sociology
516. Christina M Chica, PhD Candidate, Sociology
517. Kyle Nelson, PhD Candidate, Sociology
518. Lauren Hofsneider, PhD Student, Psychology
519. Shaina Goel, PhD Student, CMS
520. Alessandra Amin, PhD Candidate, Art History
521. Juan D. Delgado, PhD Candidate, Sociology
522. Joel Herrera, PhD Candidate, Sociology
523. Matías Fernández, PhD Candidate, Sociology
524. Meixi Lin, PhD Candidate, Ecology and Evolution Biology
525. Zak Gram, PhD Student, Classics
526. Amelia Hill, PhD Candidate, Sociology
527. Jia Yo Gu, PhD Candidate, Architecture
528. Nathan Hoffmann, PhD Student, Sociology
529. Sam Lau, MA Student, Public Policy, Public Health
530. Riley Thornton, PhD candidate, Mathematics
531. Amber Sackett, PhD Student, French & Francophone
532. Kaiting Zhou, PhD Student, Sociology
533. Alex Maymind, PhD Candidate, Architecture
534. Samuel Baugh, PhD Student, Statistics
535. Xiaofeng Gao, PhD Candidate, Statistics
536. Grace Jung, PhD Candidate, FTVDM
537. Andrea Zhu, PhD Student, Sociology
538. Thomas J Maierhofer, PhD, Statistics
539. Leydy Diossa-Jimenez, PhD Candidate, Sociology
540. Kelly Roso, PhD Candidate, Italian
541. Haibo Fan, MS Student, Statistics
542. Nan Xi, PhD Candidate, Statistics
543. Shuchi Goyal, PhD Student, Statistics
544. Siwei Ye, PhD Student, Statistics
545. Margaret Johnson, MAS student, Statistics
546. Jie He, MS Student, Statistics
547. Carlie Leary, MS, EEB
548. Caitlin Ahearn, PhD Candidate, Sociology
549. Kristina Garske, PhD Candidate, Human Genetics
550. Yotala Oszkay Febres-Cordero, PhD Candidate, Sociology
551. Ian Peacock, PhD Candidate, Sociology
552. Dean Menezes, PhD student, Math
553. Ivy Kwok, PhD Student, Civil & Environmental Engineering
554. Kaiwen Jiang, PhD Student, Statistics
555. Gary Fox, PhD Candidate, Architecture and Urban Design
556. Kendell Clarke, PhD Student, European Languages and Transcultural Studies
557. Qiaoling Ye, PhD Candidate, Statistics
558. Jeong Yoon, PhD Candidate, Mechanical Engineering
559. Jeremy Levenson, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
560. Sucharita Kanjilal, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
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
577. Viki Eagle, PhD, Anthropology
578. Alejandro ERUT, PhD candidate, Anthropology
579. Madeleine Yakal, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
580. Jananie, PhD Student, Anthropology
581. Kellie Roddy, Phd student, Archaeology
582. Yanina Gori, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
583. Daysha Omoregie Edewi, MFA, Theater
584. Yvonne Carrillo, PhD Student, Sociology
585. Sasha Winkler, PhD student, Anthropology
586. Jonathan Sivan, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
587. Yael Assor, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
588. Nicolyna Enriquez, PhD Student, Art History
589. Tlaoli Fuentes, PhD Candidate, Anthropology
590. Xinong, MA student, East Asian Studies
591. Yiming Ha, PhD Student, History
592.  Lilit Ghazaryan, PhD student, Anthropology
593.  Jack Wilson, PhD Candidate, History