

Executive Board

(Systemwide Senate Review) Proposed Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

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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, appearing to read 'Ronald C. 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, appearing to read "R. Tucker", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

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

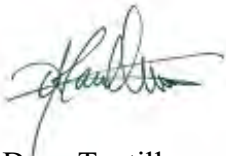
Chair, Davis Division of the Academic Senate

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 dark ink, appearing to read 'Dean Tantillo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dean Tantillo

Chair, Graduate Council Committee

June 16, 2021

Mary Gauvain, Chair
Academic Council

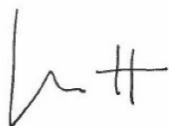
Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Revision to Presidential Policy on Graduate Student In-Absentia Registration

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

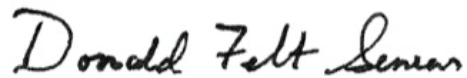
At its May 26, 2021 meeting, the Council on Planning and Budget (CPB) discussed the proposed revisions to the Presidential Fee Policy on Graduate Student In Absentia Registration.

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



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

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.

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 or via the Council's analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at 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 Gouvain, 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, reading "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

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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)

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia LiWang".

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

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

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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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)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kara McCloskey".

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

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

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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

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, appearing to read "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

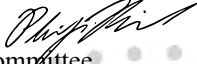
From: Katherine Kinney, Chair 
Committee on Planning and Budget

**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.



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

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 26th, 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, reading "Declan F. McCole". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

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

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,



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



July 21, 2021

To: Mary Gauvain, Chair
Academic Senate

From: Susannah Scott, Chair
Santa Barbara Division

A handwritten signature in cursive script 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.

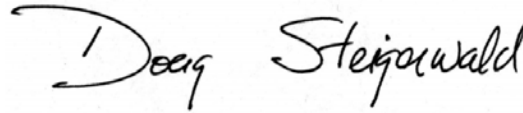
We thank you for the opportunity to comment.

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.

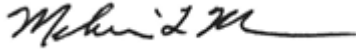
CC: Shasta Delp, Executive Director, Academic Senate

**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 Stopple, 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.

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.

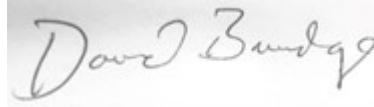
All three reviewing committees expressed support for the proposed revisions. Graduate Council noted that the policy will take into account the local context and will better meet the needs of graduate students at each campus. The proposed policy change also has the potential to reduce the number of exception 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 cursive script that reads "David Brundage". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

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, reading "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

<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., 12th Floor

Oakland, CA 94607-5200

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

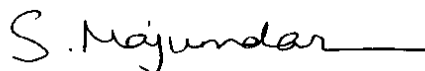
Dear Mary:

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 16th 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

Assembly of the Academic Senate
1111 Franklin Street, 12th 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

ACADEMIC SENATE

University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th 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

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

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.

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 or via the Council's analyst, Elizabeth Feller, at 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



Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

Responsible Officer:	VP – Budget & Capital Resources <u>AVP – Budget Analysis & Planning</u>
Responsible Office:	CR – Budget & Capital Resources <u>Budget Analysis & Planning</u>
Issuance Date:	7/30/2009 <u>TBD 2021</u>
Effective Date:	7/30/2009 <u>Fall Term 2020</u>
Last Review Date:	
Scope:	All graduate and professional degree students

Contact:	Anne Geiger <u>Cain Diaz</u>
Email:	anne.geiger@ucop.edu <u>cain.diaz@ucop.edu</u>
Phone #:	(510) 987- 9113 <u>9350</u>

I. POLICY SUMMARY

The Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration promotes continuous enrollment of graduate and professional degree students by providing an appropriate enrollment incentive. This ~~P~~policy recognizes that these students may need to perform work away from the University but seeks to minimize the number of students who allow their registration status to lapse. As a result, this ~~P~~policy strengthens the relationship between the University and its graduate students. Both the eligibility criteria and reduced fee level are predicated on the fact that students undertaking approved coursework or research outside of California-the local campus region have access to substantially fewer instructional resources and student services than do students who reside within the state-local campus region, and should therefore qualify for a meaningful fee reduction.

Effective ~~for as of~~ the ~~2009-2020~~ fall term, academic and professional program graduate students who find it necessary to undertake coursework or research related to their degree program outside of California-the local campus region during their tenure at the University are eligible for reductions in fees as provided below. Authority for implementation of this ~~P~~policy and for granting exceptions rests with the graduate

dean unless campus authority for a degree program has been delegated to a professional school dean.

II. DEFINITIONS

Advanced to Candidacy:—Students advance to doctoral candidacy by proving that they have acquired the necessary knowledge to conduct original, independent dissertation research for the ~~Ph.D. or Ed.D~~doctoral degree. Once a student is advanced to candidacy there are to be no further academic – e.g., course, exam – requirements placed on the student, other than developing an acceptable dissertation proposal and dissertation.

Graduate Academic: See Answer 3 in Section VII.,~~Part A~~ below.

Graduate Professional: See Answer 3 in Section VII.,~~Part A~~ below.

Local Campus Region: This term refers to an area defined by the graduate dean beyond which students could not easily access campus resources.

Master's: See Answer 3 in Section VII.,~~Part A~~ below.

III. POLICY TEXT

A. *Eligibility Criteria for the Reduced In Absentia Fee*

All students pursuing doctoral or master's degrees in academic disciplines as well as those pursuing professional master's or doctoral degrees are eligible for the tuition and fee reduction. Students in self-supporting graduate programs are not covered by this ~~P~~policy.

Students may apply for *in absentia* registration status under the following circumstances:

- Academic doctoral students must have advanced to candidacy by the time the *in absentia* status would begin.
- Master's and graduate professional students must have completed at least one year of coursework by the time the *in absentia* status would begin.
- Special cases within the above two categories can be approved only by exception at the discretion of the appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean.
- Students who seek *in absentia* registration beyond the initial term of *in absentia* status must re-apply for each subsequent period.

Students must be enrolled full-time in regular UC units to be eligible for the reduced *in absentia* charges. The appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean is responsible for determining that the proposed *in absentia* units meet the following criteria. The approved research or coursework:

- Must be directly related to the student's degree program as evidenced by UC faculty approval.
- Must be of a nature that makes it necessary to be completed outside of California-the local campus region for at least one full academic term.

- 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 ~~UC~~the resources or learning environment of any UC campus.

The appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean (in accordance with campus delegation of authority for degree programs) may grant *in absentia* registration status for:

- Up to two years for academic doctoral students.
- Up to one year for master's and graduate professional students.
- Longer periods at the discretion of the appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean.

Students ~~shall~~will observe the following requirements while enrolled *in absentia*:

- Be enrolled full-time at their UC campus of origin for the duration of their *in absentia* registration.
- Be enrolled in a UC academic doctoral, master's, or graduate professional program (except self-supporting) for the duration of their *in absentia* registration.

Students are eligible to apply for and receive University fellowships and research assistantships, but not teaching assistantships during the *in absentia* period.

B. Study or Research at Non-UC Institutions

Students paying the reduced *in absentia* charges who enroll and pay tuition and fees at non-UC institutions will not qualify for additional University of California need-based aid. Students may fulfill all or part of their independent study requirements by enrolling in courses at a non-UC institution while registered *in absentia* at UC. In this case, however, the tuition and fee charges paid to the non-UC institution will not increase the student's eligibility for need-based aid from UC. The tuition and fees paid to non-UC institutions will also not affect the amount of *in absentia* fees owed to UC. Furthermore, students who wish to transfer coursework from non-UC institutions toward degree requirements at the UC campus of origin must obtain approval to do so in accordance with campus policies.

Periods of qualified *in absentia* registration ~~shall~~will fulfill academic residency requirements for degree programs. Under current *Academic Senate Regulations 610 and 688*, academic residency requires only that students be registered and enrolled full-time at the University, and does not require them to be physically present or pay a certain amount of fees or tuition. As a result, periods of approved *in absentia* research or coursework will count towards graduate degree residency requirements. The definition of academic residency is under the jurisdiction of the Academic Senate and is subject to review and revision.

C. **Reduced Fee Level**

Students ~~shall~~will be assessed the following fees while registered *in absentia*:

- 15 percent of the combined Tuition and Student Services Fee. This reflects that students *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 full health insurance fees associated with the UC campus of origin (or provide evidence of alternative insurance coverage according to customary campus practice). Students registered *in absentia* will have access to all benefits associated with their student health insurance plan.
- Campus-based fees, as determined by each campus.
- Nonresident Supplemental Tuition, if applicable. Nothing in this ~~P~~Policy is intended to affect the criteria for applicability of Nonresident Supplemental Tuition.
- Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition, if applicable. This would only apply to students in graduate professional programs subject to this charge.

~~IV. COMPLIANCE / RESPONSIBILITIES~~

~~The Office of the President will assess the revenue impacts of the Policy during its initial implementation. Uncertainty over how students will adjust their enrollment patterns in response to the proposed tuition and fee reduction makes it difficult to estimate future revenue impacts using data from prior years. Within this context, it is anticipated that the Office of the President will measure the following:~~

- ~~• Change in the number of students registering *in absentia* in 2011-12 compared to 2008-09.~~
- ~~• Change in the length of *in absentia* registration durations in 2011-12 compared to 2008-09.~~
- ~~• Change in the number of students with enrollment lapses of at least one term or on leave in 2011-12 compared to 2008-09.~~

~~A full report on the revenue impacts will be provided to the Chancellors three years after implementation, with interim reports provided to the graduate deans each year prior to that. Finally, effective for the 2009 fall term, UC campuses will be required to eliminate the provision for research leaves currently granted to some doctoral students. A primary objective of the updated policy is to ensure the continuous enrollment of graduate students throughout the completion of their degrees. Allowing students to take "research leaves" that permit them to leave the University for significant periods of time as an alternative to continuous enrollment for graduate students in need of conducting research or completing coursework away from the University is inconsistent with the policy and such leaves are to be eliminated.~~

V.IV. PROCEDURES

Not applicable.

VI.V. RELATED INFORMATION

At their July 2009 meeting, the Regents approved student tuition and fees for graduate students registered *in absentia*. The Regents' item about this action is available at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/regmeet/jul09/j4.pdf>.

Please note that at their November 2010 meeting, the Regents approved changing the name of the Educational Fee to "Tuition," the name of Fees for Selected Professional School Students to "Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition," and the name of Nonresident Tuition to "Nonresident Supplemental Tuition," effective July 1, 2011. The Regents' item about this action is available at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/regmeet/nov10/j1.pdf>. The updated names are reflected in this Policy

VII.VI. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Part A: The following questions and answers were issued by OP to the Graduate Deans, Registrars and Financial Aid Directors on August 6, 2009:

Q1. Are students who register *in absentia* assessed 15 percent of Tuition and the Student Services Fee, or are they assessed the full amounts and then issued a waiver for 85 percent of Tuition and the Student Services Fee?

A1. Students registered *in absentia* are assessed 15 percent of Tuition and 15 percent of the Student Services Fee. The lower charges should be treated as reductions and not as waivers. Waivers are funded and there is no funding associated with this ~~P~~policy. The lower *in absentia* charges assume a reduction in campus services, much like the reduced charges charged to part-time students. (The reduction in charges is a special provision and therefore should not be reported on the Corporate Student System financial aid input file.)

Q2. Which campus-based fees are assessed to students who are registered *in absentia*?

A2. Each campus decides which of its campus-based fees to assess, if any, and how much. In making their decisions, campuses may want to consider how they treat other students who are off-site, such as those participating in EAP and UCDC.

Q3. What is the definition of academic doctoral, graduate professional, and master's, as referenced in the section of the policy titled: Eligibility Criteria for the Reduced In Absentia Fee?

A3. Academic doctoral students are those working towards a doctoral degree that includes advancement to candidacy as part of the progression to the degree. All other students working towards a doctoral degree are graduate professional (e.g., M.D., D.D.S., Pharm.D., D.V.M., O.D., J.D.) All students whose degree objective is any master's degree (e.g., M.A., M.S., M.B.A.) are master's students.

Q4. Who determines the local campus region?

A4. The local Campus Region refers to an area defined by the graduate dean beyond which students could not easily access campus resources.

Q4Q5. What is meant by "special cases" in which the appropriate dean may approve an exception to the eligibility criteria for the reduced *in absentia* charges?

A4A5. In rare instances, deans are permitted to grant exceptions for academic doctoral students not advanced to candidacy and for master's and graduate professional students who have completed less than one year of coursework. 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. ~~(The policy requires the Office of the President to assess the revenue impacts during initial implementation. A full report on the revenue impacts will be provided to the Chancellors three years after implementation, with interim reports provided to the graduate deans each year prior to that.)~~

Q5Q6. Can students be registered *in absentia* during the summer?

A5A6. Generally, no. Students can register *in absentia* only during a term when Tuition and the Student Services Fee are assessed. Most graduate students are not assessed Tuition and the Student Services Fee during the summer and hence cannot be registered *in absentia* during that term. However, the relatively few students who are assessed Tuition and the Student Services Fee in the summer (typically in certain professional degree programs) are eligible for *in absentia* registration.

Q6Q7. Can students registered *in absentia* participate in campus approved exchange programs with other institutions?

A6A7. No. UC graduate students who participate in exchange programs normally pay full UC tuition and fees and receive UC credit.

Q7Q8. Can students enroll in a UC online course and still be eligible to register *in absentia*?

A7A8. No. The *in absentia* status is reserved for coursework or research that meets the criteria described in the policy, including but not limited to the requirement that the coursework or research “[m]ust be of a nature that makes it necessary to be completed outside of California-the local campus region for at least one full academic term.” Since online courses offered by UC campuses do not meet this requirement, they are not available to students who are registered *in absentia*. A student may, however, enroll in, and pay for, an online course offered elsewhere while registered *in absentia*. In general, students are not permitted to enroll in any UC campus course other than the one required for *in absentia* registration.

Q8Q9. How will financial need be calculated for students registered *in absentia*?

A8A9. Financial need will be calculated assuming an off-campus student budget and fulltime enrollment at the reduced fee level.

Q9Q10. Can students who are registered *in absentia* apply for and receive readerships or tutorships?

A9A10. No. According to the policy, students registered *in absentia* “...are eligible to apply for and receive University fellowships and research assistantships, but not teaching assistantships...” Readers and tutors perform some of the same kinds of tasks required of teaching assistants. Furthermore, the nature of their work often requires them to be on campus.

~~Part B: The following message was issued by the Provost to the Chancellors on October 27, 2009:~~

~~Since approval of the Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration (IAR), a question has emerged about the intent of the policy concerning research leaves. As a means to reinforce existing policy on continuous enrollment, IAR requires campuses “...to eliminate the provision for research leaves currently granted to some doctoral students.” The question is, does the policy’s reference to research leaves apply only to students pursuing academic activities outside of California, or does it also apply to students conducting research away from campus but in California?~~

~~IAR’s scope is limited to students who are eligible to register *in absentia*, and thus the elimination of research leaves referred to in the policy applies only to these students. For all other students, campus policies remain unchanged by IAR. This means that campuses can offer research leaves to students who must leave campus to carry out research in a different California location. Keeping in mind the University’s policy on continuous enrollment, deans should continue to act judiciously when granting research leaves to students who remain in California.~~

~~IAR was approved on July 30, 2009, and became effective as of the Fall 2009 academic term. For some campuses the approval came after research leaves had already been granted to students who needed to continue their research outside of California. To honor commitments already made, campuses may continue to provide research leaves for IAR eligible students for the 2009-10 academic year only, after which research leaves for these students will be eliminated. All other provisions of IAR remain in effect as of Fall 2009.~~

VIII.VII. REVISION HISTORY

This Presidential policy was established on July 30, 2009. ~~No revisions have been made since.~~ It was reformatted into the standard University of California policy template effective July 1, 2012. It was revised on TBD 2021 to incorporate technical and clarifying editsrevisions, effective as of the 2020 fall term, and to fix formatting and/or typographical errors.



Fee Policy for Graduate Student In Absentia Registration

Responsible Officer:	AVP – Budget Analysis & Planning
Responsible Office:	Budget Analysis & Planning
Issuance Date:	TBD 2021
Effective Date:	Fall Term 2020
Last Review Date:	
Scope:	All graduate and professional degree students

Contact:	Cain Diaz
Email:	cain.diaz@ucop.edu
Phone #:	(510) 987-9350

I. POLICY SUMMARY

The Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration promotes continuous enrollment of graduate and professional degree students by providing an appropriate enrollment incentive. This Policy recognizes that these students may need to perform work away from the University but seeks to minimize the number of students who allow their registration status to lapse. As a result, this Policy strengthens the relationship between the University and its graduate students. Both the eligibility criteria and reduced fee level are predicated on the fact that students undertaking approved coursework or research outside of the local campus region have access to substantially fewer instructional resources and student services than do students who reside within the local campus region, and should therefore qualify for a meaningful fee reduction.

Effective as of the 2020 fall term, academic and professional program graduate students who find it necessary to undertake coursework or research related to their degree program outside of the local campus region during their tenure at the University are eligible for reductions in fees as provided below. Authority for implementation of this Policy and for granting exceptions rests with the graduate dean unless campus authority for a degree program has been delegated to a professional school dean.

II. DEFINITIONS

Advanced to Candidacy: Students advance to doctoral candidacy by proving that they have acquired the necessary knowledge to conduct original, independent dissertation research for the doctoral degree. Once a student is advanced to candidacy there are to be no further academic – e.g., course, exam – requirements placed on the student, other than developing an acceptable dissertation proposal and dissertation.

Graduate Academic: See Answer 3 in Section VI. below. **Graduate**

Professional: See Answer 3 in Section VI. below.

Local Campus Region: This term refers to an area defined by the graduate dean beyond which students could not easily access campus resources.

Master's: See Answer 3 in Section VI. below.

III. POLICY TEXT

A. *Eligibility Criteria for the Reduced In Absentia Fee*

All students pursuing doctoral or master's degrees in academic disciplines as well as those pursuing professional master's or doctoral degrees are eligible for the tuition and fee reduction. Students in self-supporting graduate programs are not covered by this Policy.

Students may apply for *in absentia* registration status under the following circumstances:

- Academic doctoral students must have advanced to candidacy by the time the *in absentia* status would begin.
- Master's and graduate professional students must have completed at least one year of coursework by the time the *in absentia* status would begin.
- Special cases within the above two categories can be approved only by exception at the discretion of the appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean.
- Students who seek *in absentia* registration beyond the initial term of *in absentia* status must re-apply for each subsequent period.

Students must be enrolled full-time in regular UC units to be eligible for the reduced *in absentia* charges. The appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean is responsible for determining that the proposed *in absentia* units meet the following criteria. The approved research or coursework:

- Must be directly related to the student's degree program as evidenced by UC faculty approval.
- Must be of a nature that makes it necessary to be completed outside of the local campus region for at least one full academic term.
- 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.

The appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean (in accordance with campus delegation of authority for degree programs) may grant *in absentia* registration status for:

- Up to two years for academic doctoral students.
- Up to one year for master's and graduate professional students.
- Longer periods at the discretion of the appropriate graduate dean or professional school dean.

Students will observe the following requirements while enrolled *in absentia*:

- Be enrolled full-time at their UC campus of origin for the duration of their *in absentia* registration.
- Be enrolled in a UC academic doctoral, master's, or graduate professional program (except self-supporting) for the duration of their *in absentia* registration.

Students are eligible to apply for and receive University fellowships and research assistantships, but not teaching assistantships during the *in absentia* period.

B. Study or Research at Non-UC Institutions

Students paying the reduced *in absentia* charges who enroll and pay tuition and fees at non-UC institutions will not qualify for additional University of California need-based aid. Students may fulfill all or part of their independent study requirements by enrolling in courses at a non-UC institution while registered *in absentia* at UC. In this case, however, the tuition and fee charges paid to the non-UC institution will not increase the student's eligibility for need-based aid from UC. The tuition and fees paid to non-UC institutions will also not affect the amount of *in absentia* fees owed to UC. Furthermore, students who wish to transfer coursework from non-UC institutions toward degree requirements at the UC campus of origin must obtain approval to do so in accordance with campus policies.

Periods of qualified *in absentia* registration will fulfill academic residency requirements for degree programs. Under current *Academic Senate Regulations 610 and 688*, academic residency requires only that students be registered and enrolled full-time at the University, and does not require them to be physically present or pay a certain amount of fees or tuition. As a result, periods of approved *in absentia* research or coursework will count towards graduate degree residency requirements. The definition of academic residency is under the jurisdiction of the Academic Senate and is subject to review and revision.

C. Reduced Fee Level

Students will be assessed the following fees while registered *in absentia*:

- 15 percent of the combined Tuition and Student Services Fee. This reflects that students *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 full health insurance fees associated with the UC campus of origin (or provide evidence of alternative insurance coverage according to customary campus practice). Students registered *in absentia* will have access to all benefits associated with their student health insurance plan.
- Campus-based fees, as determined by each campus.
- Nonresident Supplemental Tuition, if applicable. Nothing in this Policy is intended to affect the criteria for applicability of Nonresident Supplemental Tuition.
- Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition, if applicable. This would only apply to students in graduate professional programs subject to this charge.

IV. PROCEDURES

Not applicable.

V. RELATED INFORMATION

At their July 2009 meeting, the Regents approved student tuition and fees for graduate students registered *in absentia*. The Regents' item about this action is available at <http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/regents/regmeet/jul09/j4.pdf>.

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Q1. Are students who register *in absentia* assessed 15 percent of Tuition and the Student Services Fee, or are they assessed the full amounts and then issued a waiver for 85 percent of Tuition and the Student Services Fee?

A1. Students registered *in absentia* are assessed 15 percent of Tuition and 15 percent of the Student Services Fee. The lower charges should be treated as reductions and not

as waivers. Waivers are funded and there is no funding associated with this Policy. The lower *in absentia* charges assume a reduction in campus services, much like the reduced charges charged to part-time students. (The reduction in charges is a special provision and therefore should not be reported on the Corporate Student System financial aid input file.)

Q2. Which campus-based fees are assessed to students who are registered *in absentia*?

A2. Each campus decides which of its campus-based fees to assess, if any, and how much. In making their decisions, campuses may want to consider how they treat other students who are off-site, such as those participating in EAP and UCDC.

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A3. Academic doctoral students are those working towards a doctoral degree that includes advancement to candidacy as part of the progression to the degree. All other students working towards a doctoral degree are graduate professional (e.g., M.D., D.D.S., Pharm.D., D.V.M., O.D., J.D.) All students whose degree objective is any master's degree (e.g., M.A., M.S., M.B.A.) are master's students.

Q4. Who determines the local campus region?

A4. The local Campus Region refers to an area defined by the graduate dean beyond which students could not easily access campus resources.

Q5. What is meant by "special cases" in which the appropriate dean may approve an exception to the eligibility criteria for the reduced *in absentia* charges?

A5. In rare instances, deans are permitted to grant exceptions for academic doctoral students not advanced to candidacy and for master's and graduate professional students who have completed less than one year of coursework. 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.

Q6. Can students be registered *in absentia* during the summer?

A6. Generally, no. Students can register *in absentia* only during a term when Tuition and the Student Services Fee are assessed. Most graduate students are not assessed Tuition and the Student Services Fee during the summer and hence cannot be registered *in absentia* during that term. However, the relatively few students who are assessed Tuition and the Student Services Fee in the summer (typically in certain

professional degree programs) are eligible for *in absentia* registration.

Q7. Can students registered *in absentia* participate in campus approved exchange programs with other institutions?

A7. No. UC graduate students who participate in exchange programs normally pay full UC tuition and fees and receive UC credit.

Q8. Can students enroll in a UC online course and still be eligible to register *in absentia*?

A8. No. The *in absentia* status is reserved for coursework or research that meets the criteria described in the policy, including but not limited to the requirement that the coursework or research “[m]ust be of a nature that makes it necessary to be completed outside of the local campus region for at least one full academic term.” Since online courses offered by UC campuses do not meet this requirement, they are not available to students who are registered *in absentia*. A student may, however, enroll in, and pay for, an online course offered elsewhere while registered *in absentia*. In general, students are not permitted to enroll in any UC campus course other than the one required for *in absentia* registration.

Q9. How will financial need be calculated for students registered *in absentia*?

A9. Financial need will be calculated assuming an off-campus student budget and fulltime enrollment at the reduced fee level.

Q10. Can students who are registered *in absentia* apply for and receive readerships or tutorships?

A10. No. According to the policy, students registered *in absentia* “...are eligible to apply for and receive University fellowships and research assistantships, but not teaching assistantships...” Readers and tutors perform some of the same kinds of tasks required of teaching assistants. Furthermore, the nature of their work often requires them to be on campus.

VII. REVISION HISTORY

This Presidential policy was established on July 30, 2009. It was reformatted into the standard University of California policy template effective July 1, 2012. It was revised on TBD 2021 to incorporate revisions, effective as of the 2020 fall term, and to fix formatting and/or typographical errors.



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200
510/987-9029

April 27, 2021

CHANCELLORS
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR GAUVAIN
LABORATORY DIRECTOR WITHERELL
ANR VICE PRESIDENT HUMISTON

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

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed for systemwide review are proposed revisions to the Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration, a Presidential policy.

The University's [In Absentia Policy](#) helps ensure that graduate students who are studying or conducting research outside of California can make continued progress towards their degree while maintaining access to certain University programs and services such as health insurance. The *In Absentia* Policy allows eligible students to pay 15% of Tuition and the Student Services Fee when they have been approved to register in absentia.

The current policy restricts eligibility to students undertaking approved coursework or research “outside of California” but allows deans to grant exceptions to this requirement in “special cases.” Exceptions are granted, but only to students who request them. The changes to the policy, as submitted by UCOP’s Budget Analysis & Planning office and in consultation with the Provost and Graduate Studies offices, 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.

The Council of Graduate Deans proposed this revision in order to formalize the practice that had previously been taking place via exception: allowing certain students—those who specifically asked—to file for *in absentia* registration while working outside of the local campus area but within California. This change will allow UC to be more explicit about the conditions under which *in absentia* registration is granted, so that the policy can be well advertised and more equitably applied.

University of California Provost Michael T. Brown agreed with the deans that allowing each graduate division to designate a local campus region ineligible for *in absentia* registration will reduce the number of exceptions while increasing transparency and continuous enrollment of UC graduate students. The UCOP Budget Analysis & Planning office consulted the campus Vice Chancellors for Planning and Budget who expressed no issues with the request.

Systemwide Review

Systemwide review is a public review distributed to the Chancellors, the Chair of the Academic Council, the Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural

April 27, 2021

Resources requesting that they inform the general University community, especially affected employees, about policy proposals. Systemwide review also includes a mandatory, 90-day full Senate review.

Employees should be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the draft policy. Attached is a Model Communication which may be used to inform non-exclusively represented employees about these proposals. The Labor Relations Office at the Office of the President is responsible for informing the bargaining units representing union membership about policy proposals.

We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than **July 26, 2021**. Please submit your comments to Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu. If you have any questions, please contact Cain Diaz at Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu.

Sincerely,



David Alcocer
Associate Vice President
Budget Analysis & Planning

Enclosures:

- 1) Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration (clean copy)
- 2) Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration (redline copy)
- 3) Model Communication

cc: President Drake

Provost and Executive Vice President Brown
Executive Vice Chancellors/Provosts
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava
Senior Vice President Bustamante
Vice President and Vice Provost Gullatt
Interim Vice President Lloyd
Vice President Maldonado
Vice Provost Carlson
Vice Provosts/Vice Chancellors of Academic Affairs/Personnel
Vice Chancellors for Planning and Budget
Graduate Deans
Deputy General Counsel Woodall
Associate Vice Provost Lee
Assistant Vice Provosts/Assistant Vice Chancellors/Directors – Academic Personnel
Executive Director Baxter
Executive Director and Chief of Staff Henderson
Executive Director Silas
Chief of Staff and Chief Policy Advisor Kao
Chief of Staff Levintov
Chief of Staff Peterson
Director Diaz
Director Grant
Director Sykes
Manager Crosson
Manager Smith

April 27, 2021

Analyst Durrin
Policy Advisory Committee