



320 STEPHENS HALL
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

January 11, 2017

JAMES CHALFANT
Chair, Academic Council

*Subject: Proposed revised professional degree supplemental tuition policy
(Regents Policy 3103 and 3104)*

Dear Jim,

On December 5, 2016, the Divisional Council of the Berkeley Division (DIVCO) discussed the proposal cited in the subject line, informed by reports from our divisional committees on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation (CAPRA), Educational Policy (CEP), and Graduate Council (GC). While we appreciate this attempt to simplify professional degree supplemental tuition (PDST) policy, our discussion and the committee reports highlighted a range of concerns.

CAPRA noted the following relatively minor considerations:

The description of departments needing to do “multi-year planning” may be unnecessarily vague. Our understanding is that, in the past, the time period from one review to another was 3 years, and that it will be changed to 5 years under the new policy. We encourage the authors to consider the reason for keeping the wording in the policy so ambiguous.

The language that a review is needed if the fee increase is “greater than inflation” would also benefit from some clarification about how the inflation rate would be defined

Graduate Council raised a number of more complex issues related to the policy and its relationship to graduate programs at UC Berkeley as a whole. It believes that given our budgetary constraints and the challenges facing our graduate programs, a more holistic approach to funding is needed.

Much of our discussion focused on how PDST funds may be used. We oppose any increase in limitations on how PDST funds are used. Further, we believe that these funds should remain on campuses at the unit level, and that units should have

flexibility in allocating funds to strengthen and support their graduate programs. This should be stated explicitly in the policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Powell', with a horizontal line underneath.

Robert Powell
Chair, Berkeley Division of the Academic Senate
Professor of Political Science

Cc: Sanjay Govindjee, Chair, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
Max Auffhammer, Chair, Committee on Educational Policy
Whendee Silver, Chair, Graduate Council
Sumei Quiggle, Associate Director staffing Graduate Council
Deborah Dobin, Senate Analyst, Committee on Academic Planning and Resource Allocation
Linda Corley, Senate Analyst, Committee on Educational Policy