



May 29, 2014

SENATE FACULTY

Re: Joint Provost-Senate Statement on the Development of New Revenue Generating Master's Programs

Dear Colleagues:

We are writing to you jointly to convey our commitment to support schools and faculty as they develop new Master's degrees aimed at creating new revenues for the campus, including self-supporting graduate professional degree programs (SSGPDPs) that generate revenues beyond standard student tuition and fees.

In times when the University received adequate support to honor its commitment to the California Master Plan and to expand graduate academic and professional programs in response to State and societal needs, UC directed self-supporting programs primarily towards working adults and other non-traditional student populations. These programs provided alternative venues and opportunities for access to quality programs leading to graduate professional degrees.

With the continued decline in State support, it becomes more important to recognize that offering self-supporting graduate professional degree programs is also a necessary educational strategy to allow the University to serve a greater number of students above and beyond those whom State resources will support. Although these programs receive no state-support, they have the potential to generate resources that would enhance the quality, accessibility, and affordability of core academic programs and departments.

When considering such programs please keep in mind that SSGPDPs allow for more freedom in setting fees to market; these fees must be carefully calculated to cover absolutely all expenses for the program, including, but not limited to, partial staff and faculty time and overhead costs. It is also important to ensure that an SSGPDP will not have a detrimental impact on a school's or a department's ability to carry out its state-supported teaching, research, and service responsibilities, for example by ensuring that the state-supported teaching mission of the unit is not back-filled by non-line faculty. Both SSGPDPs and programs using Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDSTs) require a pool of students who will benefit from the program in their career development to an extent that makes it reasonable for them to pay the higher tuition/fees. Committing long-term resources (e.g. faculty and staff lines) to support such a program will require making a strong case for the long-term stability of the proposed program. The Office of the Provost is available to provide assistance with market studies and budgeting, including appropriate policies for return to aid.

As always, new graduate degree proposals require approval both from Graduate Council at UCI and from the system-wide Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA). New degree titles typically require longer approval processes than titles already in use on campus or elsewhere in the UC system. University policy on SSPDPs is currently being revised jointly by UCOP and the Academic Senate.

We are looking forward to working with you to take advantage of these important opportunities for the campus.



Howard Gillman
Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor



Peter Krapp
Chair, Academic Senate-Irvine Division



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