



Chair, Academic Council and Assembly of the Academic Senate
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August 9, 2006

WYATT R. HUME
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT-ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

RE: Academic Council Request for UCOP Analysis of Fee Levels for Self-Supporting Professional Degree Programs

Dear Rory,

At its July 26, 2006, meeting, the Academic Council approved a request of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) for a report/analysis comparing the profiles of students in UC's self-supporting graduate professional degree programs with those of students enrolled in non-self-supporting professional degree programs. CCGA's request was prompted by the UCOP report on fee levels for self-supporting professional degree programs, which was submitted by President Dynes to The Regents in March 2006. The UCOP report raises significant concerns for the Academic Council and CCGA about UC's ability to fulfill its mission of providing equal access to professional schools for all California residents.

Additional details are included in the enclosed letter of July 5, 2006, from CCGA. If you have any questions or identify any problems with fulfilling this request, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JO", written over a light blue horizontal line.

John Oakley, Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Academic Council
Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA)
María Bertero-Barceló, Academic Senate Executive Director

Encl: 1



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)
Duncan Lindsey, Chair
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The Assembly of the
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July 5, 2006

JOHN OAKLEY, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

RE: Fee Levels for Self-Supporting Professional Degree Programs

Dear John,

At a recent meeting, CCGA discussed the UCOP report on fee levels for self-supporting professional degree programs, which was submitted to the Regents by President Dynes in March. Members noted that the fees for many of these self-supporting professional programs have steadily increased from year-to-year, making it increasingly difficult for students to afford and enroll in these programs. This is even more pronounced in professional fields that do not provide high levels of remuneration.

At issue is UC's ability to fulfill its mission of providing equal access to professional schools to California residents. In fact, some members argued that UC is in effect restricting access to self-supporting professional programs for many low income minority and disadvantaged California students. Assuming that most students fund their professional graduate education through student loans, members surmised that such high fees for UC's professional programs results in high debt loads for UC graduates. While high levels of debt may be more manageable for graduates who pursue careers in business and law, it is much less so for graduates of nursing, education, and writing programs.

CCGA is primarily interested in a comparison between self-supporting professional programs and those professional programs that are not managed on a self-supporting basis. Therefore, CCGA is formally requesting a report/analysis of the student profiles in the self-supporting graduate professional degree programs with students enrolled in non self-supporting professional graduate degree programs. Members suggested a comparison of these two kinds of professional programs based on both educational costs and program student composition in terms of race, ethnicity, family income (if available), as well as any other criteria that are appropriate. The committee would like to receive this report no later than January 1, 2007. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

Duncan Lindsey

Duncan Lindsey
Chair, CCGA

cc: CCGA
Executive Director Bertero-Barcelo