



Office of the Chair
Telephone: (510) 987-9303
Fax: (510) 763-0309
Email: john.oakley@ucop.edu

Assembly of the Academic Senate, Academic Council
University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

April 5, 2006

RORY HUME
ACTING PROVOST

RICHARD ATTIYEH, CHAIR
GRADUATE SUPPORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Re: Deliberations of the Graduate Support Advisory Committee

Dear Rory,

As you know, the Competitive Graduate Student Financial Support Advisory Committee (which has come to be known as the Graduate Support Advisory Committee, or GSAC), was established last fall on the recommendation of the Academic Council. The group was set up on a one-year trial basis to advise the Provost on implementation of The Regents' policy on graduate and professional student support, and is charged with reporting to the Provost by the end of 2005-06 on several tasks. Those tasks include "a specific, first-step graduate student financial support proposal for 2006-07."

At the March 22, 2006, meeting of the Academic Council, members were concerned to learn from the Chairs of the Coordinating Council on Graduate Education (CCGA) and the University Committee on Planning and Budget (UCPB) that GSAC has not met since its January 24 meeting and that its activities may be stalled in relation to the determination of a proposal that could be placed into effect for the 2006-07 academic year. We are aware that GSAC has considered a variety of options regarding relief of graduate student fees, and yet has apparently not found an optimal course to recommend that will offer academic graduate students fee relief in the short term.

The Council believes that GSAC is showing an unaccountable lack of urgency. Graduate student education and fee relief is considered a crisis situation at all levels of the University, encompassing faculty and administration. Therefore, we strongly advise that GSAC immediately reactivate its deliberations with the goal of reaching a consensus on relief of graduate student fees in time for implementation beginning in the 2006-07 academic year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "JO".

John Oakley Chair
Academic Council

Copy: Academic Council
María Bertero-Barceló, Executive Director