



Kum-Kum Bhavnani
Telephone: (510) 987-9303
Email: kum-kum.bhavnani@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*

June 1, 2020

MICHAEL T. BROWN
PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Re: Request to Extend Normative Time-to-Degree and Funding Limits

Dear Michael,

At its May 27, 2020 meeting, the Academic Council unanimously endorsed the attached letter from the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) requesting that the normative time-to-degree and funding limits outlined in APM 420-17 (for Readers, TA-ships, and Fellowships) be temporarily extended due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Council agreed with the guidance offered by CCGA that amending APM 420-17 (for Readers, TA-ships, and Fellowships) is not the most appropriate action for this matter. Council supported CCGA's elegant suggestion that the way forward is to request that COVID-19 affected semesters/quarters not count toward normative time to degree and finding limits. Graduate Deans would be able to implement this flexibility to include Winter 2020 through the end of Spring 2021.

Council is acutely aware that many graduate students and their PIs have expressed concern about their inability to access labs, and the ensuing loss of research productivity during the COVID-19 crisis. This affects graduate students' normative time to degree as well as their potential funding. Some graduate students are requesting an extension to rules limiting Academic Student Employees to 18 quarters/12 semesters of funding, to account for delays and disruptions caused by COVID-19.

Council understands that funding availability will partly drive decisions, and that deans will need to weigh continuing graduate students' needs against those of incoming students.

Thank you again for your support of the University's graduate education and research mission. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Kum-Kum Bhavnani

Kum-Kum Bhavnani, Chair
Academic Council

cc: Vice Provost Carlson
Academic Council
CCGA
Senate Directors



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)

Ramesh Balasubramaniam, Chair
ramesh@ucmerced.edu

ACADEMIC SENATE

University of California
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, California 94607-5200

May 13, 2020

ACADEMIC SENATE CHAIR KUM-KUM BHAVNANI

Dear Chair Bhavnani,

At its May 6 meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) voted 11-0-0 to request that the period covering winter 2020 through spring 2021 be excluded from the 18 quarter/12 semester limits in APM 420-17 (for Readers, TA-ships, and Fellowships), due to the COVID-19 crisis.

The committee asks that the Senate transmit this request to the Provost. Please note that this does not include an effort to change APM 420-17, but merely asks that the COVID-19 affected semesters/quarters not count towards normative time to degree and funding limits.

CCGA considered a few other ways of handling the issue of funding term limits and normative degree time, but concluded that excluding Covid-19 affected semesters/quarters was the most optimal solution. CCGA members did not want to give blanket authority to Graduate Deans on granting exceptions to APM 420-17, nor did they want to temporarily modify the existing APM.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have further questions regarding this issue. Please rest assured that CCGA will continue to look at graduate studies issues as University responses to COVID-19 continue to evolve.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Balasubramaniam", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ramesh Balasubramaniam
CCGA Chair

cc: CCGA Members
Mary Gauvain, Academic Senate Vice Chair
Hilary Baxter, Academic Senate Executive Director
Michael LaBriola, Academic Senate Assistant Director
Pamela Jennings, Graduate Studies Executive Director