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January 30, 2014

TO: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division

FR: Akula Venkatram, Chair
Executive Committee, Bourns College of Engineering

RE: Proposed Policy on Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition

The Bourns College of Engineering Executive Committee discussed the drafts for Regents Policy 3103: Policy on Professional Degree Supplemental Tuition (PDST) and its Presidential Policy Implementation Protocols. BCOE supports the broad goals of the policy to allow an individual program to increase tuition to fund its growth if the demand for the program justifies it. However, the implementation of the policy raises several concerns:

1. The criteria that a program has to meet to gain approval to implement the policy, while very detailed, appear to be onerous enough to discourage a program from applying for supplemental tuition.
2. Implementation may eventually stratify the financial structure of professional programs in the UC systems and create different tiers of professional schools that may undermine the uniformity of high quality education among different UC campuses.
3. The policy does not explain explicitly whether the PDST revenue would affect the level of core UCOP funding for the professional programs.