

January 9, 2014

TO: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division

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

RE: Review of Revised Self Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program Policy

The BCOE Executive Committee has reviewed the *Revised Self Supporting Graduate Professional Degree Program Policy* and finds that the proposed revisions to the 2011 UCOP Policy include guidelines and details that are helpful in developing programs. However, the new policy raises the following questions and concerns:

1. UC already has developed 60 self-supporting graduate degree programs generating more than \$130 million dollars annually. Clearly, these programs are in demand and thriving as a collective. What is the reason for revising a policy that is only two years old?
2. What are the substantive changes in this draft policy versus the existing policy? A comparative chart would enlighten reviewers.
3. What are the specific shortcomings/concerns of the previous policy and how does this draft policy seek to address them?
4. One of the added components being proposed is the requirement for a “financial accessibility goal”. While it is stated that there is an expectation to address access for students across a wide range of incomes, it does not provide any specifics.
5. The requirements for financial accessibility could become a significant roadblock to the initiation of a new program if some committee or administrative body imposes onerous requirements for acceptability. Is there an expected measurable goal and timeframe? Who will approve this goal or deem it acceptable?