



November 13, 2014

To: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Michael Allen, Chair 
Committee on Research

Re: **Doctoral Student Support report**

Committee on Research discussed the report on Doctoral Student Support and is supportive of options one or two pertaining to NRST. However, the committee is concerned with the desire to bring in more Ph.D. students with the current struggle these students have finding jobs after completion of their degree. Are we already accepting more Ph.D. students than we should? The intent of these options was not made clear. The committee would also like to point out that the cost for a non-resident student is the same as a postdoc, and postdocs are more valuable.

The committee is in favor of offering multi-year student support and increasing stipends. However, due to the funding differences between graduate programs, it is impossible to generalize support for students. Likewise, the cost of living differences among campuses make it difficult to set stipends at the systemwide level. The committee is in favor of stipends and student support being determined by each campus.

The committee agrees that a UC-wide online resource for graduate students to facilitate professional development and employment would be insufficient because of the various jobs and resources being offered in different areas. However, the committee offers the following alternate suggestions in regards to graduate student resources: 1) each local Career Center expands to include graduate students; 2) campuses create more opportunities for students to meet with potential employers (i.e. job fairs, conferences, etc.); 3) allocate sufficient graduate student travel grant funding so that each student is able to attend two conferences while they are working on their Ph.D. Also allow for more flexibility with travel funds so that funds are able to be carried over from year to year; 4) maintaining a database of alumni and their current place of employment may be useful to students who are looking for jobs.

The committee admires the discussion of diversity proposals and agrees that reaching out to Cal State Universities is a step in the right direction. While the committee supports the idea, it is unclear how it will be achieved.