

December 8, 2014

To: Jose Wudka, Chair
Riverside Division

From: Sarjeet Gill, Chair, Executive Committee
College of Natural and Agricultural Science

Re: Doctoral Student Support Proposals and Recommendations

The CNAS executive Committee at their November 24th meeting reviewed Doctoral Student Support Proposals and Recommendations and expressed some concerns. Please see below:

The CNAS Executive Committee is broadly supportive of any effort to reduce the burden of Nonresident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) on international doctoral students. We feel that a reduction to a single year of NRST would honor the original intent of the fee, recognizing that the university exists primarily to educate in-state students, and state support of the university is provided with that intent. However, we also feel that nonresident doctoral students, who contribute greatly to the university's research mission, should not be viewed as a ongoing source of revenue.

A move to a single year of NRST would harmonize the situation for all nonresident doctoral students, both domestic and international. Currently, domestic nonresident students can formally apply to become California residents after one year of residence in the state, and therefore avoid having to pay NRST going forward; international students do not have this option. In addition, international doctoral students often are compelled to take their PhD qualifying exams earlier than domestic students, in order to avoid the penalty of paying NRST; this harms the integrity of the qualifying exam process, as these students may be assessed by different criteria, or placed at a disadvantage compared with domestic students, who face no such penalty for delaying their qualifying exams.

Yours sincerely,
Sarjeet Gill, Chair
CNAS Executive Committee