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To: Jose Wudka, Chair, Riverside Division  
From: Ameae Walker, Chair SOM Executive Committee  
Re: Support of Graduate students

11/12/14

Because of the rush, the SOM executive committee members were asked by e mail to review this large document and return comments to the chair by 11/7/14. Only one response was received and so, at the very least, the proposals do not appear to be very controversial.

#### In support of the proposals

- 1) Transparency about support is crucial, especially in disciplines where students are primarily supported by grants to major professors. It is crucial that students understand the total costs of their education (PFR, tuition, GSHIP) and where it comes from. Most have no idea and presume that what they take home is all it costs. Transparency about funding throughout their time at UCR will reduce the feeling among some students that they were given one impression by their offer letter and yet the reality once they arrived was quite different. Transparency can only improve student satisfaction and lead to better student-PI relationships and a greater commitment to the project.
- 2) Summer bridge funds are crucial to encouraging economically disadvantaged students to enter a program
- 3) Great to eliminate NRST. We have benefitted so much in the past from international students and have so few now because of the economic crisis and cutting of budgets. The costs/benefits of this are well discussed.

#### Concerns/suggestions

- 1) The document often refers to departments doing X,Y or Z in terms of funding. What about interdepartmental programs, which are more and more becoming the norm?
- 2) Career counseling/development is so discipline-dependent. Databases of potential jobs are good, but other aspects of development maybe would be better left to programs rather than a central campus office. Funds could be made available to programs.