

VIII. REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES (Continued)

A. Academic Council (Continued)

• **John Oakley, Vice Chair**

2. Request for a Memorial to The Regents on Non-Resident Tuition (action)

At its January 25, 2006 meeting, the Academic Council voted to recommend to the Assembly of the Academic Senate that it approve and, in accordance with [Senate Bylaw 90](#), initiate a mail ballot on the following Proposed Memorial to the UC Board of Regents on Non-Resident Tuition. The proposed memorial calls for the elimination of non-resident tuition for academic graduate students, and was submitted to the Academic Council by the UC Davis Division of the Academic Senate. According to Senate Bylaw 90.A, a Memorial to the Regents is defined as “a declaration or petition addressed to the President for transmission to The Regents, as provided for in Standing Order of the Regents 105.2.e.”. Memorials to the Regents on matters of Universitywide concern may be initiated either by the Assembly or by a Division. According to SB 90.E, Memorials that have been approved by the Assembly shall, within sixty calendar days of such approval, be submitted by the Secretary/Parliamentarian of the Senate to mail ballot of all voting member of the Senate. If a majority of the faculty approves the proposed memorial, the Assembly will forward it to the President for transmission to The Regents, as provided for in Standing Order of the Regents [105.2.e](#).

Action Requested:

Assembly is asked, in accordance with Senate Bylaw 90, to initiate a mail ballot of the UC Senate Faculty on the Proposed Memorial to the Regents.

PROPOSED MEMORIAL TO THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

Submitted by the Davis Division of the Academic Senate

RECITALS:

1. University of California research and development activities are important economic, intellectual, social, cultural and educational drivers for the State of California.
2. The ability to recruit the best graduate students from around-the-world is critical to the academic and research excellence of the University of California.
3. Large numbers of non-resident graduate students finish their degrees and remain in California to start or become leaders in high-technology, bio-technology, and other businesses that contribute substantially to the California economy. Many also remain in California as the next generation of research scholars.
4. California’s competition in the global marketplace requires that we compete successfully for the best graduate students from around the world.

5. Non-resident tuition is a serious impediment to recruitment of graduate students from outside of the State of California, and, most particularly, graduate students from outside of the United States.

6. Non-resident tuition charged to academic graduate students (those students with terminal academic degree educational goals such as Ph.D. and M.F.A programs) is typically not paid by the student but is charged to faculty grants and other university resources. Thus, charging non-resident tuition to academic graduate students is a shift of university funds depleting resources that may be used for other purposes.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

The Academic Senate of the University of California requests that the Regents of the University of California structure and advocate a budget for the University that eliminates non-resident tuition for academic graduate students.

ARGUMENT IN SUPPORT OF THE MEMORIAL ON NON-RESIDENT TUITION

High quality graduate students are critically important to the teaching and research missions of the University. They contribute to the work of the faculty on research projects in the laboratory and the library. They bring their own imagination and insights into the research process. Excellent graduate students help the faculty provide a better educational environment. Graduate students working as teaching assistants and instructors contribute to the undergraduate education program. Graduate students' participation motivates undergraduates, who are virtually their peers, to perform well in an academic environment.

Recent tuition and fee increases for graduate students harm the University of California's ability to attract and support the best graduate students. The non-resident tuition imposes an extra burden on graduate students who come from outside of California. The burden is particularly significant for graduate students from outside the United States who cannot achieve California resident status.

Academic graduate students who are recruited into the University of California do not pay their own fees and tuition. The best graduate students are highly sought after and generally expect all tuition and fees to be paid by the University, in addition to stipends for living expenses. Policy makers often do not understand the circular nature of fees charged to academic graduate students. These fees and tuitions must be covered by University resources including private support dollars, research funds, or instructional funds in the case of teaching assistants. In this sense, graduate fees and tuition involve a shift of funds from one University resource to another, without a net gain in revenue.

The case is particularly difficult with respect to non-resident students because of the substantially higher tuition costs. Non-resident tuition is shifted to the department or research program that recruits the student. The use of campus funds to provide relief from the burden of non-resident tuition reduces the funds available for other purposes. There is little or no net gain to the University from charging non-resident tuition to graduate students. In addition, the high

non-resident tuition is an incentive to hire post-doctoral researchers who may cost less than graduate students, to the detriment of graduate education.

Recent elimination of non-resident tuition for academic graduate students who advance to candidacy is an inadequate solution. The program provides an incentive to departments to advance students to candidacy prematurely in order to reduce costs to the department or research programs. The three year limit on the fee remission will lead to premature granting of degrees with respect to dissertations that require a little more work to move from merely acceptable to excellent.

Simply eliminating non-resident tuition for academic graduate students puts non-resident graduate students on a level playing field with others at little cost to the University.

ARGUMENT AGAINST THE MEMORIAL ON NON-RESIDENT TUITION

The University of California does not need to compete for foreign students. Indeed, the best foreign graduate students are being trained in their home countries. As that trend continues, the University will need to focus its efforts on training the best students from the United States.

California taxpayers have supported the University. Students who have themselves not contributed to the tax base, or whose parents are not California taxpayers, should be subject to higher non-resident fees. Tuition remission for students advanced to candidacy solves most of the issue with respect to academic graduate students.

The loss of non-resident tuition represents a loss of revenue to the University. Many foreign graduate students are supported by their home governments. Waiving non-resident tuition for these students does not benefit the University.

Many non-resident students can be supported by faculty research grants as graduate student researchers. Waiving the non-resident tuition for these students will reduce the amount of federal support coming to the University.

The real problem is high student fees for graduate students in general. Our competition at most other private and public universities properly recognizes that graduate students who have research or teaching appointments are in fact assets, and not liabilities, to the educational enterprise, and they waive all tuition and fees in those instances. At UC, even if non-resident tuition is eliminated, our research grants (for GSR appointments) and the campus (for TA appointments), will still have to fund fees for graduate students. That is now about \$9000 per annum, having doubled since 2002, and still rising. It is projected to climb 10% next year. We should not take on such a momentous effort without a goal of achieving parity with our competition, a goal of great significance in our efforts to retain UC's standing as a major research university, as well as its position as a powerful economic engine for the state's economy. A resolution passed at the Davis Divisional Representative Assembly called for elimination of tuition and fees for GSR appointments. This memorial does not address that question, but instead focuses only on a small subset of the total number of graduate students. To the extent that the

University gives up revenue from non-resident tuition, there are fewer resources available to support graduate students in general.

The Regents can be convinced of the value of graduate education for California and its economy, as described in the proposed memorial. In order to justify eliminating both the NRT and fees they should also be shown that academic graduate students support the university in the short term by their teaching and research activity.

This memorial should be voted down, and a new one be drafted that calls for the elimination of educational fees as well as non-resident tuition, for all academic graduate students who hold either teaching or research appointments.