

April 20, 2005

Dear Graduate Students:

1. Please Cut, Paste, Sign, and Print this letter!—Add your own experiences with the fee increases, personalize it.
2. Return it to your Forum Representative so we can make copies and deliver them in person at the MAY Regents Meeting.
3. If you have any questions call or email Anita Garcia at 213-440-1239 or leg@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu

Your voice is essential in fighting the fee increases!

Thanks,

Anita Garcia
GSA Legislative Liaison
leg@gsa.asucla.ucla.edu
213-440-1239

SAMPLE LETTER ON GRADUATE SCHOOL FEE INCREASES

DATE

Regent Gerald L. Parsky, Chairman
Office of the Secretary of the Regents
1111 Franklin Street, 12th Floor
Oakland, CA 94607

Dear Chairman Parsky:

It has been brought to my attention that you may be reviewing institutional financial aid practices at your next UC Board of Regents meeting in May.

In November 2004, the UC Board of Regents approved an increase in Graduate and Professional School fees. These increases are creating insurmountable barriers to graduate students seeking a graduate and professional education in the UC System. These fee increases are transforming this public institution into one that only wealthy students can afford to attend. These fee increases further erode access to the UC System for students who are low-income and historically underrepresented.

Many departments have been forced to accept fewer graduate students into their programs and eliminate research and teaching opportunities. Many graduate students have been forced to take outside jobs, extending the time they have to spend as a student at the UC. Many graduate students are being forced to drop out of their programs, because they cannot afford the fee increases.

Extending the professional school fee increases to include the Master's Programs in Public Health, Public Policy and the UCSD International Affairs Program compromises the mission and ability of the UC System to train and educate students able to work in public interest and government jobs. This huge fee increase essentially eliminates the pool of students who would traditionally work in poor and underserved communities, especially in the fields of public health and public policy.

As a graduate student I strongly encourage you to stop balancing the UC budget on the backs of graduate students and instead start seeking additional state funding and working as a strong advocate for an increased public investment in the UC System.

Thank you for your continued commitment in keeping the University of California affordable for all students.

Sincerely,

NAME
DEPARTMENT
ADDRESS

cc: UC Board of Regents
UC President Robert C. Dynes
UC Vice Pres. Larry Hershman
UCLA Chancellor Carnesale