Communication from the Committee on Educational Policy
Howard Pollick, Chair

November 18, 2014

Farid Chehab, Chair
UCSF Academic Senate
UCSF Box 0764

Re: Doctoral Student Support Review

Dear Chair Chehab:

The Committee on Educational Policy has reviewed the Steering Committee proposal related to doctoral student support.

We agree resources should be available to minimize tuition costs to doctoral students, and that doctoral students are critical in achieving the educational and research missions of the UC system. We also agree universities around the country have implemented unique programs and strategies to offset costs to doctoral students. A coherent UC policy to address the current funding problems for doctoral students is therefore important to remain competitive. It is also noted that the traditional funding environment has changed dramatically over the past ten years. For example, at UCSF training grants have become less available, and even an F-30 award from the NIH is not sufficient to offset stipend and tuition costs for a doctoral student.

In reading over the Steering Committee proposal related to doctoral student support, many recommendations are outlined but details are lacking. The cost implications and funding mechanisms are not clearly stated which makes approval of the proposal difficult to provide. Additionally, whatever system wide proposals are advanced, there will need to be flexibility at the campus, school, department and division level.

The Committee on Educational Policy
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