



OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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April 27, 2021

CHANCELLORS  
ACADEMIC COUNCIL CHAIR GAUVAIN  
LABORATORY DIRECTOR WITHERELL  
ANR VICE PRESIDENT HUMISTON

**Re: Systemwide Review of Proposed Presidential Policy – Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration**

Dear Colleagues:

Enclosed for systemwide review are proposed revisions to the Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration, a Presidential policy.

The University's [In Absentia Policy](#) helps ensure that graduate students who are studying or conducting research outside of California can make continued progress towards their degree while maintaining access to certain University programs and services such as health insurance. The *In Absentia* Policy allows eligible students to pay 15% of Tuition and the Student Services Fee when they have been approved to register in absentia.

The current policy restricts eligibility to students undertaking approved coursework or research “outside of California” but allows deans to grant exceptions to this requirement in “special cases.” Exceptions are granted, but only to students who request them. The changes to the policy, as submitted by UCOP’s Budget Analysis & Planning office and in consultation with the Provost and Graduate Studies offices, would permit graduate deans to establish “a local campus region within which in absentia registration will not be considered” instead of limiting eligibility to students studying outside of California.

The Council of Graduate Deans proposed this revision in order to formalize the practice that had previously been taking place via exception: allowing certain students—those who specifically asked—to file for *in absentia* registration while working outside of the local campus area but within California. This change will allow UC to be more explicit about the conditions under which *in absentia* registration is granted, so that the policy can be well advertised and more equitably applied.

University of California Provost Michael T. Brown agreed with the deans that allowing each graduate division to designate a local campus region ineligible for *in absentia* registration will reduce the number of exceptions while increasing transparency and continuous enrollment of UC graduate students. The UCOP Budget Analysis & Planning office consulted the campus Vice Chancellors for Planning and Budget who expressed no issues with the request.

### **Systemwide Review**

Systemwide review is a public review distributed to the Chancellors, the Chair of the Academic Council, the Director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, and the Vice President of Agriculture and Natural

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Resources requesting that they inform the general University community, especially affected employees, about policy proposals. Systemwide review also includes a mandatory, 90-day full Senate review.

Employees should be afforded the opportunity to review and comment on the draft policy. Attached is a Model Communication which may be used to inform non-exclusively represented employees about these proposals. The Labor Relations Office at the Office of the President is responsible for informing the bargaining units representing union membership about policy proposals.

We would appreciate receiving your comments no later than **July 26, 2021**. Please submit your comments to [Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu](mailto:Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu). If you have any questions, please contact Cain Diaz at [Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu](mailto:Cain.Diaz@ucop.edu).

Sincerely,



David Alcocer  
Associate Vice President  
Budget Analysis & Planning

Enclosures:

- 1) Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration (clean copy)
- 2) Presidential Policy - Fee Policy for Graduate Student *In Absentia* Registration (redline copy)
- 3) Model Communication

cc: President Drake

Provost and Executive Vice President Brown  
Executive Vice Chancellors/Provosts  
Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Nava  
Senior Vice President Bustamante  
Vice President and Vice Provost Gullatt  
Interim Vice President Lloyd  
Vice President Maldonado  
Vice Provost Carlson  
Vice Provosts/Vice Chancellors of Academic Affairs/Personnel  
Vice Chancellors for Planning and Budget  
Graduate Deans  
Deputy General Counsel Woodall  
Associate Vice Provost Lee  
Assistant Vice Provosts/Assistant Vice Chancellors/Directors – Academic Personnel  
Executive Director Baxter  
Executive Director and Chief of Staff Henderson  
Executive Director Silas  
Chief of Staff and Chief Policy Advisor Kao  
Chief of Staff Levintov  
Chief of Staff Peterson  
Director Diaz  
Director Grant  
Director Sykes  
Manager Crosson  
Manager Smith

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Analyst Durrin  
Policy Advisory Committee