6 January 2014

To: Deans, Chairs, Directors of ORUs, Graduate Representatives and Advisors
Re: Graduate Division NRST Matching Program to begin in fall 2014

In 2013-14, UCSC has increased its doctoral enrollments towards its goal of achieving the graduate growth benchmarks established during systemwide rebenchmarking. We are seeking to sustain and build upon that progress in the coming years.

Assessing nonresident supplemental tuition (NRST) for doctoral students can distort decision-making in graduate admissions and in the employment of graduate student researchers (GSRs). The disincentive also discourages admission of international doctoral applicants whose quality and perspectives enhance our graduate programs. To foster continued growth and to reduce disincentives to recruit nonresident doctoral students, the Division of Graduate Studies is phasing in a nonresident supplemental tuition (NRST) matching program.

Beginning with new Ph.D. students in the fall 2014 cohort, the Division of Graduate Studies will provide a 3:1 match (for up to three years) to departments, ORUs, or PIs who pay NRST from extramural research funding via appointments at over 45% (with NRST paid) — i.e., Graduate Studies will offset 75% of the NRST while the PI grant will support 25% of the NRST. The match applies only to NRST paid from extramural funds; NRST remissions from block funds or other core funds are excluded.

The matching program will be phased in over three years. Beginning with the fall 2014 cohort, Graduate Studies will match payment of NRST 3:1 for any new PhD nonresident student when the NRST is paid from extramural research funds. In year two (fall 2015), non-advanced doctoral students in their first two years are eligible and in year three (fall 2016) non-advanced doctoral students in their first three years are eligible. No match will be paid for students advancing to candidacy after the third year.

We are announcing this initiative now, to allow doctoral programs to consider how this new program might influence current admissions of nonresident doctoral students. More detailed procedural information about how to access the matching funds will be made available with plenty of lead time.

Continuation of the program will be evaluated on an on-going basis, and our measure of success will be whether enrollment of Ph.D. students increases across the campus and within individual departments in accordance with our growth plans.

Sincerely,

Tyrus Miller
Vice Provost and Dean of Graduate Studies
University of California at Santa Cruz