

Summary: Increasing Graduate Support at UC San Diego

2020-02-23

UC San Diego has been working steadily for years to improve support and quality-of-life for doctoral and MFA students, as the items on the first page attest. Currently, as described on the second page, we are working through the steps required to provide (a) a guaranteed 5-year [3-year] support package for each incoming. doctoral [MFA] students, and (b) multi-year below-market on-campus housing guarantees

Element	Rationale	Status
Implement Associate-In opportunities for graduate students on our campus. These pay higher rates and open only to experienced, high-performing grad instructors.	Incentivizes excellence in instruction. Higher-responsibility positions offer professional development for aspiring faculty.	Implemented 2017-18. Ongoing addition of more such positions as we shift to smaller class sizes, offer more summer courses, add new General Education models in Seventh, Eighth colleges.
Fundraising for more graduate fellowship endowments.	Gives graduate students more opportunities to focus on dissertation work. Can provide in-year support, summer research fellowships, or top-off of external fellowships that fall short of campus standard funding.	Ongoing part of Capital Campaign.
Increase and coordinate summer activity on campus, thereby growing summer employment opportunities for graduate students.	Ensure students can do educationally meaningful work during summers and make progress toward degree. Leverages existing efforts to grow summer session, Summer Bridge, and Educational Innovation summer offerings. Leverages opportunities with Extension, ITS etc.	Ongoing. New pieces will continue to be added year-over-year.
Make each academic unit a separate pool for calculating GSGEI [handling of non-resident tuition].	Extends successful model piloted with several units already. Removes prior tendency for GSGEI and block grant to be entangled.	Implemented Fall 2019.
Any student still within the guarantee-of-support period specified in their admissions letter will be supported at the minimum rate equivalent to a 50% TA-ship (~\$22k academic year stipend)	Create a guaranteed minimum support level tied to TA stipend from collective bargaining agreement. Remove prior tendency for some units to provide only 25% support.	Implemented Winter 2020.

Multi-year on-campus housing guarantee at 20% below market for all doctoral and MFA students.	Below-market housing costs and elimination of commuting time/cost will benefit all students.	Nuevo West, Nuevo East to open in first half of 2020.
Funding of tuition/fees for supported students will be split proportionally across all sources of support.	Ensure that external grants pay their appropriate share of tuition/fees. Makes campus resources go further.	To be implemented in Summer 2020 when UC Path comes online and makes this technologically feasible.
Streamline process for matching students with existing campus fellowships.	Ensure all fellowship dollars fully deployed. Less stress on students. Less busy-work for staff.	To be implemented in Fall 2020.
Build a robust marketplace for matching students with TAship opportunities across departments, colleges, Extension [including HS doctoral students].	We need an efficient system that builds confidence in all stakeholders and better serves graduate students... and units.	To be implemented by Fall 2021.
Reconfigure funds now called “block grant” to provide each student a 1 st year fellowship – and offer doctoral students without external funding or GSR opportunities a dissertation completion fellowship.	Boosts recruitment of diverse, talented cohorts. Equality of opportunity. Supports all divisions with recognition of struggles to fund students in humanistic fields. <u>THIS ELEMENT WAS PART OF THE SENATE-ADMIN WORKGROUP REPORT.</u>	Graduate dean working with each department/program to set agreed upon cohort sizes based on program strength, market factors, etc. EVC business office modeling costs to ensure resources will match obligations. Aiming to implement this for Fall 2021 entering cohort.
Reconfigure TAship allocation to reflect pedagogical demands of courses, not simply the division they are in.	Better supports the educational mission of the university. More equitable. <u>THIS ELEMENT WAS PART OF THE SENATE-ADMIN WORKGROUP REPORT.</u>	Graduate dean working with each department/program and Senate to classify courses by pedagogical needs. EVC business office modeling TA-ship distribution to ensure resources will match obligations. Aiming to implement this for Fall 2021.
Achieve 5-year funding guarantee for all doctoral students (3 years for MFA), by completing the above elements in concert.	Clarity of support will boost recruitment and reduce student stress. Will also nudge students to finish on time.	Aim to implement for Fall 2021 incoming cohort.