

RACKHAM STUDENT GOVERNMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN – ANN ARBOR, MI

RESOLUTION TO REQUEST THAT RACKHAM SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS, IN WRITING, OUTSTANDING STUDENT CONCERNS REGARDING THE ENACTED CONTINUOUS ENROLLMENT POLICY BY JULY 31, 2009.

(RESOLUTION: SS-09-01)

Introduction

Given concerns expressed by a large portion of the Rackham graduate student body about Continuous Enrollment, the Rackham Student Government (RSG) organized a Continuous Enrollment Student Advisory Committee (CE SAC) to communicate with Rackham administrators about these concerns. However, due to the vague nature of much of the information emerging from the committee meetings, we have decided to compile a list of unresolved issues. This document reflects concerns voiced in the personal scenarios collected by the RSG and other communication with graduate students. These concerns have been outstanding for the entire time during which the policy was proposed and has been enacted. We hope that communication between Rackham and the graduate student body will improve as we work together to reconcile these issues.

Whereas, information about the proposed continuous enrollment policy was not made widely available to graduate students before it was adopted by the Rackham Executive Board on December 10, 2008, **AND**

Whereas, in a letter to graduate students dated May 14, 2009, Dean Janet Weiss wrote “the intent of the [continuous enrollment] policy is that students who don’t pay tuition now should not pay tuition under continuous enrollment,” **AND**

Whereas, in a letter to graduate students on May 14, 2009, Dean Weiss also wrote “tuition fellowships will fill the gap between funding already committed to students and funding required under the new policy,” **AND**

Whereas, in a letter to graduate students on May 14, 2009, Dean Weiss further wrote, “The target date for school and college funding plans to be completed is the end of summer 2009,” **AND**

Whereas, the Rackham Student Government, at the request of Dean Weiss formed the Continuous Enrollment Student Advisory Committee (CE SAC) for the purpose of advising the Rackham Graduate School on all aspects of the planning and implementation of the proposed continuous enrollment policy in the Fall 2008 semester, **AND**

Whereas, the members of the CE SAC have been unable to have their basic questions answered in a meaningful way.

Therefore be it resolved by the Rackham Student Government on behalf of the student body of the Horace H. Rackham Graduate School that the members of the

Continuous Enrollment Student Advisory Committee be granted access to Rackham's information concerning the proposed continuous enrollment policy, **AND**

Be it further resolved, that RSG formally requests that Dean Weiss or her designee provide to the members of the CE SAC as well as the RSG Executive Board a written summary of the work completed to date on the policy, by program, **AND**

Be it further resolved, that the written correspondence also include an update as to the proposed policy's provisions both financial and otherwise, for the following student scenarios:

- plan to have a child, and/or are raising children
- are taking care of a family member or dependant while in graduate school
- need to live outside of Ann Arbor, either temporarily or permanently, for spousal or other personal reasons
- are unfunded or need to obtain funding to pay for tuition during the dissertation writing period
- work professionally in their chosen field while making degree progress or hold another job in order to fund their graduate education
- are away from the university for an extended period to do fieldwork, including semesters where they are unable to make much progress (due to circumstances such as language training or political unrest in the country in which they are studying)
- face chronic conditions (such as disability or mental illness) that may require more flexibility in degree path
- are coping with a medical and/or psychological issue but need to avoid going on medical leave in order to keep their health insurance
- whose time to degree is higher than average for any reason other than those listed above

And be it finally resolved, that the President of the Student Body will work to ensure a timely response to the passage of this resolution no later than the next meeting of the CE SAC on July 31, 2009.

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Presented to RSG for *First Reads* on 7/21/09

Presented to RSG for *Second Reads* on 7/22/09

Yes: _____ No: _____ Abs: _____ NV: _____ Date: _____