

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

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November 7, 2018

Dear Chancellor Christ,

The Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Student Services and Fees (CACSSF) voted at its meeting on October 10th to recommend against the adoption of the Miscellaneous Student Fee (MSF) as proposed by the Berkeley International Office (BIO).

The proposed fee amount is \$86 per semester for academic year 2019-20 and \$117 per semester thereafter, and would be assessed on all nonimmigrant students sponsored by UC Berkeley. Fee revenues would go towards funding fourteen staff positions in BIO and paying for office and materials, and would replace VC Research funding phasing out in Spring 2020.

CACSSF considered a number of factors when evaluating this proposal, including the fee level, current funding structure of the Berkeley International Office, and input from the international student community. Among the concerns voiced by committee members:

The MSF would increase the existing disparity in fee levels assessed to international students as compared to their domestic peers. Undergraduate Nonresident Supplemental Tuition (NRST) was recently raised to \$978 per year, and nonimmigrant graduate students are ineligible to apply for residency during the duration of their studies. It has been indicated that this MSF would supplant an annual student services fee (SSF) allocation from the VCR Office, which had previously been allocated to BIO for operations. These SSF funds, to which both graduates and undergraduates contribute, would be redistributed towards research discovery experiences that would primarily benefit undergraduates.

There would also be an impact on academic departments and research units, many of whom pay these fees for their graduate students as a key recruitment mechanism.

There is a mismatch between the proposed use of MSF and student input, which indicated that many international students prioritized visa-related services and did not wish to fund additional auxiliary programs.

We recognize that the Berkeley International Office is in a difficult financial situation, and we additionally acknowledge that under the current political and regulatory climate, there is an increased need for BIO's visa-related services. It is our hope that the campus finds a way to fund BIO in a sustainable way, without placing unreasonable burden on our highest-paying students or compromising our ability to recruit and retain talented scholars.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephen C. Sutton in black ink.

Stephen C. Sutton, Ed.D.
CACSSF Co-Chair

Handwritten signature of Yongqi Gan in black ink.

Yongqi Gan
CACSSF Co-Chair