

Objections to the Proposed Professional Business Graduate Fee

Disclaimer: These objections do not necessarily represent the views of the Executive Committee of the CSULA Senate or its members. Rather, they reflect some concerns already expressed to members of the Executive Committee and they are provided to you to help identify some of the issues that might be discussed at the Senate meeting.

1. The proposal sets a dangerous precedent.
 - A. The argument for additional fees for MBA faculty can easily be made for other specialized professional disciplines. Why address only these needs?
 - B. If professional business graduate fees are increased for this rationale, it will inevitably lead to fee increases for numerous other disciplines.
 - C. Such increases will endanger enrollments, especially for disadvantaged students.
2. A fee increase will hurt our students.
 - A. The report says that currently 25% of professional business degree graduate students receive financial aid. What kind of financial aid do these students receive? If it is loans, do we really wish to burden our students with a debt they may struggle to repay? The report notes that MBA students expect annual salaries of \$167,000 five years after graduation, but these are national statistics. What do CSU students earn five years after graduating?
 - B. Currently, few students of color pursue the MBA in the CSU (7% are Latino and Blacks account for less than 4.5%). Will a fee increase adversely affect these limited numbers? Even the 25% set-aside for financial aid called for in the proposal does not assure increased access.
 - C. Student fees are scheduled to rise until students are paying for a third of the cost of their degree. Will the proposed fee increases be in addition to this across the board increase? What percent of the costs of their education will MBA students pay if the proposal is approved?
3. Superior alternatives exist.
 - A. Increase state support for high-cost programs.

The state legislators and the Governor have recognized that nursing is a high-cost program and have provided additional marginal cost dollars for these programs. Wouldn't it be a superior solution to have the state pay directly for all of the higher cost programs?
 - B. Increase state support for STEM programs.

If increased access is the goal, wouldn't it make more sense to increase funding for the STEM disciplines (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math)? Students of color lag behind their peers in these disciplines. Closing

this achievement gap will lead to a more diverse student body pursuing all professional graduate degrees.

C. Achieve the ACR 73 goals.

Both the CFA and the CSU agreed to jointly pursue the funds necessary to raise tenured and tenure-track faculty levels to at least 75%. Raising the salaries of faculty in MBA programs by raising student fees would remove any incentive for the state to fund ACR 73. This jeopardizes programs across the Academy.

D. Close the CPEC salary gap for all faculty.

It is true that faculty teaching in graduate business programs make less than faculty at comparable institutions, but this problem is not unique to business faculty. This is true of all CSU faculty. As long as faculty compensation continues to lag behind comparable institutions, all disciplines will continue to face challenges recruiting and retaining outstanding faculty members. Resorting to a fee increase to close the salary gap for one discipline will undercut the ability of the CSU to obtain the funding necessary to close the gap for the other disciplines.

E. Reduce the workload for all faculty.

The Report argues that it is difficult to hire faculty to teach in the business courses because the workload is heavier than at comparable institutions. This is not only true for faculty in business, but for all CSU faculty. Fifty years ago expectations for professional achievement activities were low. They are now much higher in all disciplines. Reducing faculty workload in business professional graduate programs by raising fees reduces the likelihood that workload will be reduced throughout the campus.