

UNLV | GRADUATE COLLEGE

GRADUATE PROFESSIONAL & CAREER DEVELOPMENT FEE PROPOSAL

UNLV Graduate College - February 2019

PURPOSE OF THE FEE REVISION PROPOSAL

To allow the Graduate College to continue providing outstanding career and professional development, skills training, and community building events, workshops, and services to support graduate student success, to expand our free offerings through our Professional Development Academy, and to increase the types of student support we offer in our new Graduate Gateway Building space beginning in fall 2019.

BACKGROUND

Our mission is to advance graduate education at UNLV. We support our more than 160 graduate certificate, master's, specialist, and doctoral programs and over 1,000 graduate assistants. We work closely with departments and the graduate faculty to provide UNLV's more than 5,000 graduate students with the highest quality academic experience, not only through coursework, but also through research/creative activity and professional development opportunities. Our overarching goal is to support and promote UNLV's unique blend of graduate programs while providing services that facilitate graduate study and enhance student learning.

In 2014 we began building a Grad Rebel Success Center, now known as our Professional Development Academy. It is a virtual resource center, which officially launched in 2015, and offers skills support, non-academic advising, graduate community building events, and professional & career development opportunities. At its start, the Professional Development Academy offered one certification, a handful of events and workshops, and non-academic advising. Over the last five years, we have expanded to offer 4 academic support certifications, 6 Grad Rebel programs, and over 100 community building events, activities, and workshops annually -- all available to graduate and professional students at no charge, and many offer participation scholarships.

WHAT DOES THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ACADEMY DO NOW?

(Note: \$ = we currently provide scholarships for these events/programs)

- We offer 4 free academic support certifications: research, teaching, mentorship, & communication.
- We have free Grad Rebel Programs, including:
 - Grad Rebel Ambassadors Program \$
 - Grad Rebel Advantage Program \$
 - Rebel Research and Mentorship Program \$
 - Grad Rebel Writing Boot Camp \$
 - Post-Master's Career Pathways Program
 - Graduate College Medallion Program

- We organize & host community building events, including the following types of activities:
 - New Student Orientations (2 per year) \$
 - New GA Orientations
 - Doctoral Recognition Ceremonies (2 per year)
 - Graduate Showcase & Reception \$
 - Rebel Grad Slam 3MT & Reception \$
 - Southwest Showdown & WAGS 3MT \$
 - Inspiration, Innovation, Impact Reception to kick-off Research Forum \$
 - Research Forum awards lunch
 - Diversity Research & Mentorship Event & Lunch
 - Research Week activities
 - Grad Rebel Recognition Week activities \$
 - Homecoming Fair \$
 - #RebelsGive \$
 - Advocacy Events \$
 - Recruitment Events
 - Doughnuts with the Dean drop-in sessions
 - Pizza with your RPC Coordinators
 - Thesis & Dissertation format training & drop-in sessions

- More than 600 graduate students have already participated in at least one of our free academic support certifications or Grad Rebel programs.

- Over the last 5 years, *over 15,000 graduate students, faculty, community members, and alumni* have attended our graduate community building, networking, and professional/career development events.

- For the academic year 2018-2019, we have already had *nearly 1,000 students* attend Professional Development Academy workshops. We are on target to have the highest workshop attendance rate this year.

- For the academic year 2018-2019, we are hosting over 70 workshops; our highest number to date and the workshop topics reflect input, requests, and demand from students seeking particular transferable skills, hands-on trainings, and other professional development opportunities.

- Demand & unmet student support needs:
 - We routinely have to turn away students who want to participate in our free programs because we are not able to accommodate demand at current budget and staffing levels.
 - We are frequently asked to hold more events outside normal business hours and to keep the GC open during non-standard hours to accommodate graduate student schedules.
 - We hear from students (via direct requests, GC surveys, and the like) requesting a number of different support services and special training & professional development opportunities that we have been unable to provide due to budget and staff shortages.
 - There is high demand for our YouTube videos of workshops/events, and we are continually asked to provide professional & career development opportunities online to students who are not local or who cannot attend in-person workshops & trainings.
 - We have been asked for more designated graduate student labs/study/work spaces.

WHY REQUEST A GRADUATE & PROFESSIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT FEE?

The Graduate College currently does not have any fees to support graduate student success, professional or career development, or our key events. We have funded all of our student support services and professional & career development offerings using old high-dollar student fee accounts that had built up over many years and that the Board of Regents asked campus to spend down. *To maintain our current offerings and expand to meet other types of graduate student demand for services, training opportunities, space, etc., we have to generate new revenue with a student fee.*

Our request for direct student support for campus-wide programming to support graduate student success reflects:

- Demand for more graduate student support services, including better dissemination of important information; longer hours; access to data analysis software; free consultations on writing, grant writing, thesis & dissertation completion, and statistics; and more.
- Demand for more online career & professional development opportunities. Over 95% of graduate students who completed the UNLV Climate Survey in fall 2018 reported that they would like to see more webinars and YouTube videos of our workshops and trainings. Our YouTube channel has had 49,000+ viewers of our videos (representing only a very small handful of our workshops) since 2016.
- Student demand for additional new professional and career development support and training opportunities in key areas.
- Our move into a new Graduate College space in the Gateway Building where we're dedicating space for GPSA, building a new "Gateway Commons" computer/study lab for graduate students, and housing our expanded Professional Development Academy. Pending funding, the "Commons" will be available for extended hours, the GC will expand our hours of operation, and we will also have conference room & meeting space for students to book and use, free of charge.

We do not make this request for a student fee lightly. The Graduate College works with students on a daily basis who have financial challenges and our number one commitment is to assist whenever possible. To address the gap between student financial needs and our ability to help, we are doing a number of things, including the following:

- Increasing our graduate financial aid funds by almost \$500,000 over the next two years and all of these funds go toward U.S. and international graduate student financial support.
- We now have a full-time development director who works closely with the Dean to raise donor funds to increase our graduate student scholarships, fellowships, and other types of student support.
- We are growing our commitment of funds to support summer doctoral research fellowships, graduate student emergency retention awards, and we continue to support the GPSA Research Forum and sponsorship (the GPSA research/travel grants program).

HOW WILL WE SPEND THIS FEE TO BETTER SUPPORT STUDENTS?

Depending on the amount of the fee, we will address all of the needs identified above, and do the following:

- For our free academic support certifications, we will:
 - Expand the existing 4 certifications to at least double the number of students in each year's cohorts.
 - Offer ALL Certifications as Digital Badges
 - Add a grant writing certification

- Add an ethics certification
- Add a leadership certification
- For our free programs, we will:
 - Expanding participation in existing programs to meet student demand.
 - Offer 4 Grad Rebel Writing Bootcamp Sessions per year, rather than the 2 that we currently offer now.
 - Offering multiple grant writing bootcamps.
 - Add new free programs as needed, based on graduate student interest & demand.
- For our events, we will include online components for both New Student Orientation and New GA Orientation.
- We will expand our career preparation and internship offerings, and add support for graduate alumni.
- We will build an online platform offering career and professional development opportunities to students 24/7/365.
- We will design and offer for-credit courses to the graduate community in key areas such as teaching/pedagogy, grant writing, research ethics, etc.
- We will expand our financial services offerings to graduate students, including an expanded array of financial planning, investment training, loan repayment, and salary negotiation workshops, as well as expedited processing of awards, scholarships, fellowships, and other requests for financial support.
- We will provide qualitative and quantitative software for graduate student use.
- We will open a “Gateway Commons” in our new building to provide 7-day computer lab and study/work space for graduate students.
- We will create and offer a free lecture series to support graduate student professional and career development on key issues, topics, and skills, presented by off-campus experts in a variety of fields.
- We will provide free-conference spaces (in-person and virtual meetings) in our new building.
- We will deliver “just in time” messaging and more personalized services through the Grad Rebel Gateway to increase efficiency for graduate students and provide easier online advisement.
- We will offer free statistical, writing, and thesis/dissertation consultations to graduate students, delivered by trained experts in each area.
- We will provide graduate students with a free Rebel Card (though they were free in the past, Rebel Card Services is going to begin charging students in Fall 2019).

Please note that if there are extra funds generated that cannot be spent within the allowable NSHE two-year window, we will use excess funds for direct financial support, including graduate student scholarships, research, and travel grants.

Questions, comments, or feedback? We welcome your input at GradRebel@unlv.edu. Thank you for your time and consideration. We appreciate you!

A GRADUATE LIFECYCLE MODEL TO SUPPORT GRADUATE STUDENT SUCCESS

UNLV Graduate College - February 2019

Why a student lifecycle model?

To target communications and professional & career development opportunities to students “just in time” when they need these opportunities and information. The lifecycle model will be based on student level: Master’s students & Doctoral students; it will also have 3-stages -- early, mid, and late academic career.



	EARLY	MID	LATE
MASTER'S	Targeted messages; invitations to participate; Professional Development Academy workshops/trainings and programs; progression requirements/info.	Targeted messages; invitations to participate; Professional Development Academy workshops/trainings and programs; progression requirements/info.	Targeted messages; invitations to participate; Professional Development Academy workshops/trainings and programs; progression requirements/info.
DOCTORAL	Targeted messages; invitations to participate; Professional Development Academy workshops/trainings and programs; progression requirements/info.	Targeted messages; invitations to participate; Professional Development Academy workshops/trainings and programs; progression requirements/info.	Targeted messages; invitations to participate; Professional Development Academy workshops/trainings and programs; progression requirements/info.

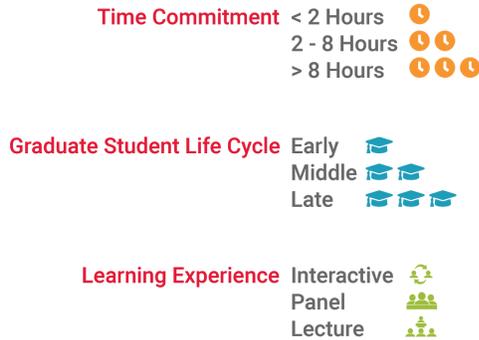
Will the Professional Development Academy lifecycle model of professional & career development support my needs?

Yes, because we are building the GC Professional Development Academy and organizing all of our workshops, certifications, programs, trainings, and events into an easily understandable key showing:

- What pillar or category of professional & career development it belongs to;
- What level (master’s or doctoral) and stage (early-, mid-, late-graduate career) students’ needs are particularly targeted;

- How much time the student should expect to invest in it;
- What format the workshop/training/program/etc. will take;
- And, key learning objectives and transferable skills that will be accomplished.

An example of a sample key is below:



This will help students assess which of our offerings are best suited to your needs and interests so that you can be savvy consumers of our offerings and invest your time in the right ones, at the right stage of your academic career.

Right now we have offerings that are suited for professional and research master’s students, professional and research doctoral students, as well as professional students. As we move into this new Student Lifecycle model, it will help ensure that we provide comprehensive professional and career development opportunities for all levels and types of students, as well as diverse career sectors and pathways.

We also welcome suggestions for new workshops, trainings, certifications, programs, and hands-on student support, and we will ask students in our annual fall Graduate Student Life & Climate Survey.

What types of topics will be included in your career & professional development support services?

We have developed, and hope to be able to build-out, comprehensive professional and career support for all levels and stages of students, organized around these six pillars, or themes:



We welcome your input & look forward to your participation! Questions? GradRebel@unlv.edu

UNLV Graduate College

Tuition Increases & Expenditures FY 2016 -2020

FY 16 New GA Funds From Tuition Increase	
Expense	Cost
GA Insurance Deficit	\$200,000.00
New Ph.D GA Positions	\$140,000.00
Fringe	\$3,030.00
FY 16 Total	\$403,030.00

FY 19 New GA Funds Tuition Increase	
Expense	Cost
Covering 100% Registration Fees for state-funded GA	\$500,000.00
FY 19 Total	\$500,000.00

FY 17 New GA Funds Tuition Increase	
Expense	Cost
GA Insurance Deficit	\$200,000.00
New Ph.D GA Positions	\$198,000.00
Fringe	\$2,820.00
FY 17 Total	\$400,820.00

FY 20 New GA Funds From Tuition Increase	
Expense	Cost
Cover tuition increase for GAs	\$150,000.00
*Director of Professional Development Academy	\$122,326.00
New GA Positions	\$227,674.00
FY 20 Total	\$500,000.00
*If new fee is approved, this position will float for one year from this fund. Year 2 funds will return to GA budget	

FY 18 New GA Funds Tuition Increase	
Expense	Cost
Increase Masters/Specialist Stipends from \$10k to \$11,250	\$355,000.00
New Ph.D GA Positions	\$39,000.00
Fringe	\$5,865.00
FY 18 Total	\$399,865.00

FY 21 New GA Funds From Tuition Increase	
Expense	Cost
Cover tuition increase for GAs	\$220,000.00
New GA Positions	\$280,000.00
FY 20 Total	\$500,000.00

Current Graduate Student Fees

Fee Name	Current Amount	Frequency	Amount to Grad College	Revenue generated	Use	Last Increase information
Graduate Student Services	\$6.00	Per Credit	\$2.76	\$200,000	All revenue goes to GA tuition	2016 = \$5 2017 = 5.50 2018 = \$6 Never increased; at about the same time, in 2011, the GC eliminated the Thesis (\$45) and Dissertation (\$55) fees.
New Student	\$35.00	One-time	\$35	\$50,000	Fall & Spring Orientation/ Hooding ceremony/SWAG	Fall 2007 = \$8 2009 = \$18
GPSA	\$18.00	Per Semester	\$ -	\$152,000	Supports GPSA Business Manager Position /Programs/Research	?
Study Abroad	\$2.00	Per Semester	\$ -	?	Supports Study Abroad Programs	?
Rebel Recycling	\$1.00	Per Semester	\$ -	?	Supports Rebel Recycling Center	?
Student Health	\$72.00	Per Semester	\$ -	?	Supports Student Health Center	?
Technology	\$8.00	Per Credit	\$ -	?	Supports Campus Technology	2016 = \$4 2017 \$8
Integrate	\$3.00	Per Credit	\$ -	?	Supports Student Information Systems	?
Student Life Facilities	\$223.00	Per Semester	\$ -	?	Supports Student Life Facilities (SU)	2016 = \$173 2017 = \$198 2018 = \$223
International Student	\$145.00	Per Semester	\$12.50	\$35,000	Pays a small portion of our international admissions specialist salary	?
CAPS	\$25.00	Per Semester	\$ -	?	Supports Counseling & Psychological Services	New Fee 2017
For Comparison:						
UG fee for Academic Success Center	\$25.00	Per Semester	\$ -	?	Supports programs run through the Academic Success center	?

UNLV Graduate College Professional & Career Development Fee Proposal

\$55/semester Fee Annual Revenue: \$574,750 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$45/semester Fee Annual Revenue: \$470,250 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES		\$35/semester Fee Annual Revenue: \$365,750 PROPOSED EXPENDITURES	
Director of the Professional Development Academy Salary with fringe benefits	\$ 122,326.00	Director of the Professional Development Academy Salary with fringe benefits	\$122,326.00	Director of the Professional Development Academy Salary with fringe benefits	\$ 122,326.00
Online Programs and Communications Specialist Salary with fringe benefits	\$ 80,742.00	Online Programs and Communications Specialist Salary with fringe benefits	\$80,742.00	Online Programs and Communications Specialist Salary with fringe benefits	\$ 74,802.00
Writing & Event Coordinator Salary with fringe benefits	\$ 80,742.00	Writing & Event Coordinator Salary with fringe benefits	\$80,742.00	Writing & Event Coordinator Salary with fringe benefits	\$ 74,802.00
Financial Services Specialist Salary with fringe benefits	\$ 80,742.00	Financial Services Specialist Salary with fringe benefits	\$80,742.00	Financial Services Specialist Salary with fringe benefits	x
Program Management Graduate Assistant: Salary, Fringe, Health Insurance, & Tuition Waiver	\$ 28,000.00	Program Management Graduate Assistant: Salary, Fringe, Health Insurance, & Tuition Waiver	x	Program Management Graduate Assistant: Salary, Fringe, Health Insurance, & Tuition Waiver	x
Operating Expenses		Operating Expenses		Operating Expenses	
1st Rebel Card for new Students	\$ 20,000.00	1st Rebel Card for new Students	\$ 20,000.00	1st Rebel Card for new Students	\$ 20,000.00
Student Staff for New Commons	\$ 30,000.00	Student Staff for New Commons	\$ 30,000.00	Student Staff for New Commons	\$ 30,000.00
Laptops/Software/Badges	\$ 30,000.00	Laptops/Software/Badges	x	Laptops/Software/Badges	x
Speaker Series	\$ 15,000.00	Speaker Series	x	Speaker Series	x
Event Associated Expenses	\$ 25,000.00	Event Associated Expenses	x	Event Associated Expenses	x
Grad Rebel Gateway/E-processing	\$ 35,000.00	Grad Rebel Gateway/E-processing	\$ 35,000.00	Grad Rebel Gateway/E-processing	\$ 30,000.00
Other Expenses		Other Expenses		Other Expenses	
*Administrative Overhead	\$ 20,116.00	*Administrative Overhead	\$ 16,459.00	*Administrative Overhead	\$ 12,801.00
Total	\$ 567,668.00	Total	\$ 466,011.00	Total	\$ 364,731.00

* Administrative Overhead is a 3.5% assesment on revenue



Dr. Kathryn H. Korgan
Dean, Graduate College
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-4022
Email: kate.korgan@unlv.edu

Date 02/25/2019

Ref: Letter in Support of the Graduate College professional and career development fees.

Dear Dean Korgan and UNLV Student Service Team,

I am writing in support of the Graduate College (GC) professional and career development fees. I am a recent UNLV graduate, who obtained her terminal degree in biological sciences at UNLV. During my time at UNLV (10 years), not only I have been a graduate student but have also held multiple positions including teaching assistant, research assistant, and instructor. I have also served on the Graduate and Professional Student Association, the official student government body for graduate and professional students, for four years as a council member and then a year as the President. Needless to say, I have worked closely with GC in multiple roles and has seen the impact of the professional and career development opportunities hosted by the GC on the Graduate and Professional student population first hand.

The UNLV Graduate College has always worked in the favor of graduate and professional students by organizing professional development events and I am pleased to see that GC intends to expand these services. In the past, GC has developed and implemented at least a total of 28 programs including teaching, research, mentorship and communications certifications; community building events and activities; and has sponsored more than 60 workshops per year. For instance, just last year, American Society of Microbiology, a student organization at the School of Life Sciences, my home department, in collaboration with GC hosted its first one day long "Finding Your Niche: Exploring Science Career". By interacting with twelve invited speakers, both undergraduate and graduate students, were able to identify career opportunities outside academia. Because of the time we spend in academia and given the limited number of biotech and pharma industries in the valley, our exposure to the alternate careers rather stays limited. GC assisted in organizing this event successfully.

In addition, my colleagues have taken the advantage of writing bootcamp, research and mentorship program, thesis and dissertation format training and drop-in-sessions, post-master's career pathways and graduate ambassadors. I personally have been benefitted by participating in Inspiration, Innovation and Impact, Research Week activities, Rebel Grad Slam, Graduate Student Showcase, and GPSA Research Forum. Presenting one's work within 3 minutes is a format adopted by many prestigious

UNLV

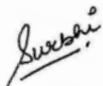
national conferences now. Therefore, having seen and practiced in such format at one's own university creates more confident, better prepared students and scholars, who make UNLV proud and help establish UNLV as a brand.

Although there are innumerable reasons as to why this nominal fee should be supported, I will provide three major reasons that must be considered. First and most importantly, many schools and departments on-campus do not offer professional and career development opportunities, thereby, making GC, for a large UNLV student population, the first and the only source of experiencing, training, practicing and honing their soft skills including delivering oral and poster presentations both to the scholars in their fields and to the community at large. Second, given that GC offers these events free of cost and organize events throughout academic year, it brings students out of their silos providing in-house networking and collaboration opportunities to the future scientists and scholars. This helps in creating a well-connected strong UNLV alumni batch. Third, the programs and events are not only open to currently enrolled graduate and professional students, but several are designed to help successfully transition the current undergraduates to the graduate school. Therefore, GC hosts programs keeping in mind the entire UNLV student population with some programs exclusive to a fraction of students.

To continue implementing and expanding quality professional and career building programs and events on-campus, additional resources are needed. The proposed fee is intended to be directed back to support the graduate and professional students. Therefore, for the above-mentioned reasons, I support the Graduate College professional and career development fees and would like to request all stakeholders to consider supporting this fee as well.

Please feel free to contact me for any clarification or additional information.

Sincerely,



Surbhi Sharma, Ph.D.
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Oh Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Precision Medicine
Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
4505 S. Maryland Pkwy
Las Vegas, Nevada 89154-4022
Email: surbhi.sharma@unlv.edu



DATE: February 8, 2019
TO: UNLV Graduate & Professional Student Association
RE: UNLV Graduate College Graduate Student Fee Increase

I graduated from UNLV in Spring 2018 and was afforded many opportunities through the Graduate College and the administration of the college all three years of my education. I cannot find appropriate words to describe how important my involvement with the Graduate College was, but I am a staunch advocate for the programs and activities the Graduate College provides to UNLV graduate students. While I still would have graduated from UNLV without my involvement in the Graduate College, my experience at UNLV and current skills as a Tenure-track Faculty member at an R1 Carnegie Designated university would have been severely truncated.

One of the most memorable activities I participated in due to my involvement with the Graduate College was a trip to Washington D.C. to meet with members of the Nevada legislative delegation. For this, I was one of only five graduate students selected for this trip. This trip was conducted to demonstrate the importance of graduate education by allowing graduate students like myself to speak directly with elected officials. My involvement with this trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity and one that I will never forget; all thanks to the Graduate College. Although our stories and suggestions for Nevada lawmakers may never be implemented or affect legislation, it was an amazing experience.

During the final two years of the doctoral studies I also participated in the Mentorship and Research Certification programs. Each of these programs were instrumental in me gaining additional skills which have greatly affected my ability to be a stronger mentor and researcher. Aside from the direct benefits of these programs, I also obtained worthwhile information from top tier scholars and students in the workshops offered through the Graduate College. Both of these certification programs also allowed me to gain essential skills as a researcher and mentor in a fairly structured environment with a plethora of support systems, including direct support from the Graduate College Dean, Dr. Kathryn Korgan. Having access to her as a graduate student was incredibly uplifting and further demonstrated the university's focus on supporting graduate students that would soon be in the workforce and ensuring they are prepared in a multitude of way.

I fully realize that my story is one of many, but I also know that many other stories likely share similar feelings towards the Graduate College. While I understand that increasing fees for graduate students may not be seen favorably, I am will to attest that the financial aspect is greatly outweighed by the skills, opportunities, and experiences the Graduate College can provide students. A increased fee will certainly pay for itself.

Please feel free to contact me (915-747-7208; jdeggleston@utep.edu) for any inquiries regarding my support for the increased graduate student fee.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey D. Eggleston', written in a cursive style.

Jeffrey D. Eggleston, PhD
Assistant Professor
Director – Stanley E. Fulton Biomechanics and Motor Behavior Laboratory
Department of Kinesiology
University of Texas at El Paso

Support of Fee Increase:

February 25th ,2019

During my time spent as a graduate student I took full advantage of the many professional development services that were offered by the Graduate College at UNLV. These included; the Graduate Ambassadors program, Rebel Grad Slam 3MT, the Thesis and Dissertation Format training to name a few. Through many of these programs and development opportunities I was able to overcome many difficulties I had when I first started the graduate program. I was never a good writer, coming from a hard sciences background I never had to write long research papers, most of my writing was short summaries on lab notebooks which did not require a lot of research or citations. This put at a disadvantage when I came into my Public Health Graduate program. I found it difficult to conduct something simple as a literature search or cite my sources in APA format. Through the graduate college workshops and writing courses I was able to overcome this hurdle and become a better writer by learning skills such as APA citations, paper structuring and even simple literature search skills. One of the greatest skills that has really helped me in my career in teaching was the Rebel Grad Slam 3MT activity. This activity helped me overcome my anxiety of public speaking. This activity I have recommended to all of the graduate students in my program and many across all disciplines to partake in. I believe that no matter how much public speaking scares a person we all have to give a presentation one or more times in graduate careers and to start with only 3 minutes is just a stepping stone in the right direction to overcoming public speaking. I have taken those skills I have learned from this experience and used it to tell many people in academia, the local media, and the general public about aspects of public health by honing in on the principles of the 3MT “elevator” speech theory. I believe that without all of these workshops, programs, and activities it would put many of our graduate students at a disadvantage especially those that might have not learned certain skills when entering into graduate programs like I did. I am in full support of the fee increase in order to provide UNLV graduate students to opportunities to success in their degree programs and in their careers paths after they graduate.

Tanviben Patel PhD’ 17 MPH ’13

February 9, 2019

Dear UNLV Community,

I spent my entire academic career at UNLV. As a graduate student, I benefited from numerous professional activities provided by the UNLV Graduate College. Subsequently, these experiences have afforded me tremendous opportunity since completing my Ph.D. program in Public Affairs. Therefore, I am writing to express my support for the efforts to expand the professional and career development services provided by the Graduate College.

The Graduate College research workshops were incredibly insightful on topics that included analytics, grant writing, and ethics, to name a few. My participation in these workshops greatly enhanced my graduate student experience. Namely, I was able to reach the finals for the Graduate College Showcase, participate in the Graduate College Research Symposium, and receive funding from a Graduate College scholarship. In addition, I was able to complete a Graduate College teaching certification program to enhance my teaching pedagogy. I am certain that expanding the Graduate College services will provide other graduate students ample opportunity to excel in the same manner.

I was also able to participate in the Graduate Rebel Ambassadors Program at UNLV. As an ambassador, I was able to represent the graduate student body at numerous on-campus and off-campus events to include the Post-Doc and Faculty Social, Graduate Faculty Club Reception, and Lobby Day in Carson City, Nevada. In fact, during the trip to the Nevada legislature in Carson City, I was fortunate enough to lobby legislators about the importance of graduate education to UNLV, the city of Las Vegas, and the state of Nevada. Based on these experiences, I have no doubt that increasing Graduate College funding will provide even more career development opportunities to current and future graduate students.

In sum, I am incredibly thankful for the Graduate College services that gave me exposure to various university activities that included presenting my research to public forums, serving as a graduate ambassador, and expanding my teaching experience. In 2018, I accepted a research analyst position at a California State University. In this role, I write extensive reports and conduct analyses on a variety of time-series and cross-sectional datasets. I am confident that the Graduate College services provided me with more of the tools necessary to pursue a meaningful career. I thank Dean Korgan and the Graduate College staff for leading the charge in expanding a wide-range of services provided to the UNLV graduate student body. I only wish to see it grow considerably more for UNLV graduate students in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Biesiada, Ph.D.