

# UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, MERCED

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March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Memo To: Karin Groth, *Director of Transportation and Parking Services*  
Michael Reese, *Vice Chancellor for Business and Administrative Services*

From: Brandon Stark, *President, Graduate Student Association*

Re: Proposed Parking Permit Renewal Policy

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The Graduate Student Association is opposed to the current Proposed Parking Permit Renewal Policy introduced by the Academic Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare, Diversity and Academic Freedom.

We find the concept of a hierarchal tiered parking system based on seniority to be against the Principles of Community that UC Merced strives to achieve. This proposal continues to propagate tension that is counter to the campus's goal to create a harmonious culture rooted in mutual respect. We respect the Academic Senate's authority to address issues on parking amongst its members, but we believe that the proposal devalues the graduate student contribution to UC Merced by relegating their parking availability at the mercy of faculty and permanent employees. We empathize with issues related to parking availability faced by faculty and permanent employees, but we would like to iterate that their challenges are not unique as graduate students suffer from many of the same challenges.

We alternatively propose that we address the issue of parking availability in a manner that does not put our communities in direct competition, as found in the best practices at many of our sister UC campuses. We propose a separate allocation of parking permits for graduate students, proportional to the population of the graduate students. The Academic Senate may then propose a procedure to address parking permit renewal that does not impact our graduate students. We feel that this proposal will alleviate the tension and competitiveness of parking pass availability, while providing a suitable plan for parking availability during our next several years of campus growth.

The Graduate Student Association proposes

- Transportation and Parking Services sets aside and allocates Preferred and North Campus Commuter permits specifically for graduate students.
- Allocation of parking permits is proportional to the population of graduate students and permanent employees.
- Graduate students are tasked with the responsibility to determine priority and availability amongst its allocation in a manner to be determined.

Respectfully,  
Graduate Student Association