



COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GRADUATE AFFAIRS (CCGA)
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The Assembly of the
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JOHN OAKLEY, CHAIR
ACADEMIC COUNCIL

**RE: Review of The Regents' Proposed RE-89 - Adoption of Policy Restricting
University Acceptance of Funding From the Tobacco Industry**

Dear John,

At its April meeting, the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs (CCGA) considered RE-89, a proposed Regental policy that would restrict the University from accepting tobacco-related research funding from the tobacco industry. After considerable discussion, members voted against RE-89 with ten members opposed and one member in favor.

Members made their argument mainly on the grounds of the principles of academic freedom, noting that such policies should never mention specific organizations (such as tobacco companies), but instead lay-out principles that would dictate if and when a ban should be enacted. The committee found the Academic Council's special working group's response to Regent John Moore's questions especially helpful in this regard. In their discussion, they referenced that group's response to questions one and two, which addressed the relationship between APM 010 and a possible ban on the acceptance of tobacco funding. Members noted that the working group's answer to question one (*How would APM010 have to be amended to be consistent with the proposed policy?*) as especially relevant, which in part states that "Because the APM must provide a broad framework of policies and procedures necessary to guide and regulate faculty conduct, it is intentionally non-specific. Amending it to proscribe a single source of funding could distort that purpose."

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to opine on this important issue. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Reen Wu".

Reen Wu
Chair, CCGA

cc: CCGA
Executive Director Bertero-Barcelo