



## COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM

Mark Eisner, MD, MPH Chair

### Annual Report 2003-2004

The Committee on Academic Freedom enjoyed a productive year during which it met five times. The Committee was represented at the University Committee on Academic Freedom by Patrick Fox, PhD.

Issues reviewed and acted on by the Committee during 2003-2004 are summarized in this report. They include:

- Review of the UCSF Cancer Center Protocol Review Committee
- Efforts to Increase the Profile of Academic Freedom Issues
- Modification of APM 010
- Increased Scrutiny of Research Funded by the National Institutes for Health
- Development of a Symposium on “Science, Government, and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment”

#### *Review of the UCSF Cancer Center Protocol Review Committee*

The Committee concluded a confidential report assessing the review procedures of the UCSF Cancer Center Protocol Review Committee (PRC). Chair Eisner forwarded the final report detailing the review to Academic Senate Chair Leonard Zegans in February, 2004 for further consideration and action.

#### *Efforts to Increase the Profile of Academic Freedom Issues*

The University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF) hosted a system-wide Symposium on Academic Freedom in June, 2003 in order to increase the profile of Academic Freedom issues across the ten UC campuses. System-wide representative Patrick Fox updated the Committee throughout the year on ongoing system-wide efforts to publicize Academic Freedom issues. UCAF will form a committee charged with the development of a web-based mechanism for the dissemination of Academic Freedom issues across all UC campuses in the year ahead. The UCSF divisional committee will provide input to this group as needed and requested.

#### *Modification of APM 010*

The UC Academic Council approved revisions to Academic Personnel Manual (APM) 010 in late 2003. This APM defines Academic Freedom at the University of California and its finalization represented the culmination of deliberations and consultation with the Academic Freedom Committees at each of the UC campuses.

#### *Increased Scrutiny of Research Funded by the National Institutes of Health*

Chair Eisner reported at the meeting of December 16, 2003 that the Traditional Values Coalition (TVC) ([www.traditionalvalues.org](http://www.traditionalvalues.org)) had recently identified research projects funded by the National Institutes of

Health (NIH) which it deemed “questionable”. The TVC argued that certain research projects involving the study of issues related to sex and sexuality should not be funded. In response to the concerns of the TVC, the NIH is engaged in an ongoing review of some of its research projects – among which are those of seventeen UCSF investigators. Committee members are concerned that this increased scrutiny might represent a threat to academic freedom and a subversion of the peer review process used by the NIH. Committee members discussed this important issue at length during 2003-2004 and, in part in response to this issue, will host a Symposium on “Science, Government, and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment” in 2004-2005 (see below).

### *Symposium on “Science, Government and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment”*

In response to concerns regarding the impact of the current polarized political environment on academic freedom, the Committee is in the initial stages of organizing a symposium on “Science, Government, and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment”. The symposium will consist of a series of lectures by four invited speakers of national prominence who represent different aspects of the relationship between science, government and academic freedom. A roundtable discussion will follow their presentations. The Committee hopes that the following topics will be covered by the symposium:

- Government influence on the conduct of scientific research – funding, oversight, and dissemination of information
- From science to policy – the role of federal advisory committees in translating science into policy
- Tension between national security and the free dissemination of scientific information
- How the government and the university can work together to maximize scientific advances in an era of heightened national security

The Committee will work during September and October of 2004 to finalize plans for the symposium which it is hope will take place in early 2005.

### *Issues for 2004-2005*

The Committee will continue to respond to issues brought to it by the University Committee on Academic Freedom and by the Chair of the UCSF Academic Freedom, and to address issues of concern to faculty at UCSF. The Committee expects to give immediate focus to the organization of the Symposium on “Science, Government, and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment” in September, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,

The Committee on Academic Freedom

Mark Eisner, MD (Occupational Medicine) *Chair*

Stuart Gansky, DrPh (Preventive and Restorative Dental Science) *Vice-Chair*

Paula Braveman, MD MPH (Epidemiology and Biostatistics)

Stephen Gitelman, MD (Pediatrics) *Clinical Representative*

Jim Lightwood, PhD, (Clinical Pharmacy) *Adjunct Representative*

Meg Wallhagen, RN, PhD, GNP (Physiological Nursing)

Patrick Fox, PhD (Institute for Health and Aging), *UCAF Representative – Ex Officio*