CLINICAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
Susan Janson, RN, DNSc, FAAN, Chair

MINUTES
Meeting of November 28, 2001

PRESENT: Chair S. Janson, D. Debas, M. Lynch, H. Rugo, S. Soifer, N. Stotts

ABSENT: B. Dong, S. Kayser, P. Loomer

Chair Susan Janson called the regular meeting of the Clinical Affairs Committee to order on November 28, 2001 at 9:10 a.m. in Room S 118. A quorum was present.

Minutes

Approval of the minutes was tabled until the next regular meeting.

Moffitt-Long Strategic Plan

Chair Janson and Vice Chair Soifer are scheduled to meet with Medical Center CEO Mark Laret in December 2001 to discuss best practices for keeping communication open between the Committee and the Medical Center. In particular, they will discuss the Moffit-Long strategic planning process and any recommended changes that are to take effect in the near term. If the Committee is apprised of these changes in a timely fashion, the Committee believes it will then be able to assess and advise regarding potential academic impacts of changes to clinical programs or services.

Long Range Development Plan Amendment Committee

The Committee discussed the need to be involved with the Mt. Zion subcommittee of the Long Range Development Plan Amendment Committee. The Committee would also like to have more direct communication with Mt. Zion, where contacts might be made with Dr. Jeffrey Pearl, Associate Dean at Mt. Zion, and/or Dr. Margaret Tempero, Professor of Medicine at Mt. Zion. A central consideration for the Committee regarding Mt. Zion is the potential impact on Mt. Zion’s clinical services and programs if Mt. Zion was left without an affiliated hospital nearby.

Dean Debas indicated to the Committee that it appears unlikely public opinion would favor a wholesale move of the hospital to Mission Bay nor did it appear that the market would support such a move. Consequently, there is some likelihood that there will be a second hospital either on the Parnassus Heights campus or at Mt. Zion. Committee member H. Rugo will work on a draft list of issues related to Mt. Zion’s needs in light of different plans for one or more new hospitals.
Ultimately, the Committee will send a letter listing these issues to the Senate Academic Planing and Budget Committee, the Senate Chair, and/or the Mt. Zion subcommittee of the LRDP Amendment Committee.

Old Business

San Francisco General Hospital (SFGH): Dean Debas reported that, despite a budget cut, no UCSF programs had been cut at SFGH thanks to the work of Irene Agnos’ office (Irene Agnos is the Assistant Vice Chancellor for University Relations under Bruce Spaulding, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement and Planning). The Committee then discussed the many issues likely to impact the SFGH budget in the near future, including: 1) A reduction in funds the federal government pays to help cover the costs of indigent care (referred to as DISH, or disproportionate share); 2) A proposed reduction in Medicare and Medical reimbursements; and 3) Decreased San Francisco City and County revenues. The latter is especially significant because the City and County of San Francisco does not want to decrease the budgets for fire and police, which leaves health care as a remaining area where significant cuts could be made. One important argument against health services cuts is that SFGH would play a critical role in the response to any bioterror emergencies.

Dean Debas noted that Irene Agnos’ office works with the Supervisors on issues important to UCSF and that she would be a good source of information regarding the current status of issues relating to SFGH. Chair Janson noted that the academic impacts would likely occur when SFGH decides how to absorb the City’s budget decisions. At this level, it is Dr. Mitch Katz, Director of the Department of Public Health for the City of San Francisco, and the Consortium Network who make the decisions for SFGH, and they may be the best contacts regarding SFGH issues.

Despite the likely budget cuts, Dean Debas reported that there is hope that SFGH will receive federal funds to fight bioterror. The federal government will be providing these funds to states for distribution.

New Business

Impact of Budget Cuts: The Committee discussed potential UC budget cuts that will result from the economic recession. Dean Debas provided the Committee with current information regarding the budget. Although the University does not yet know what the budget cuts will be, it has been asked by the State to plan for cuts of 3%, 5% and 15% in the 19900 (State) funds. Because of the severity of the downturn, it now appears that the cuts are most likely to be greater than 3%. There is expected to be an announcement in January 2002 of a mid-year, 1% cut.

Dean Debas reported that the School of Medicine is considering ways in which it would absorb the budget cuts while preserving the core academic mission. One priority is to attempt to save FTEs, but if the cuts required are 5% or more, it is likely that some FTE cuts will be unavoidable. Other cuts that might be considered include funds designated by the Legislature for Lupus research, budget augmentation earmarked for Fresno, and increases earmarked for the Langley Porter Psychiatric Institute. Dean Debas does not think another VERIP (Voluntary Early Retirement Incentive Program) is likely. He also noted that the effects of a one-year absorption of 5% cuts would be not be devastating, but more than one year of such cuts would have much more dire ramifications.
One reason for the budget pressure on UC is that the Governor and Legislature have given priority to grades K-12 and community colleges ahead of the University of California campuses. Another reason is the need for the University to comply with unfunded mandates from the State, such as HIPPA (Health Information Privacy Protection Act), and from the federal government, such as research compliance.

Dean Debas suggested that the Committee could add value to the budget debates by considering what steps could help guide decisions regarding budget cuts. Recommending a series of principles that would guide decisions on such issues as program cuts would be a significant contribution to the budget discussion. Chair Janson and the Committee agreed that this is an issue they will work to address.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m. The Committee’s December meeting is cancelled due to the holidays. The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for January 30, 2002 from 9-10:30 a.m. in S 118.