MINUTES
Meeting of March 1, 2002


ABSENT: D. Rennie

Following introduction of all members, M. Weiner requested that each member summarize their initial views on conflict of interest and outline whether, prior to Committee discussion, they had identified areas of concern relating to current UCSF Conflict of Interest policy. All Members expressed support of full disclosure of conflicts of interest by faculty members. Members raised the following issues:

- The need for a clear definition of what constitutes a “conflict of interest.”
- University and campus policies relating to conflict of interest should include a summarization and outline of restricted and unrestricted activities. This information should be well-disseminated throughout all departments.
- An examination of conflict of interest inherently involves a consideration of issues of academic freedom.
- Current UCSF policy may require greater stringency regarding research involving human subjects.
- The University is a vessel of public trust and any conflict of interest policy should provide mechanisms for the protection of both Faculty and the University.
- Clear guidelines should be developed relating to clinical research. These guidelines must protect the safety of patients and the scientific integrity of research, but must also allow freedom of research and the opportunity to consult with industry.
- Consultative and investigative relationships with outside industry should be regulated and should include financial compensation limits in line with those outlined by the American Association of Medical Colleges (AAMC).
- Changes in policy will require administrative support and efficiency.
- Insurance of full disclosure requires administrative oversight and monitoring.
- The University must foster a presumption of faculty integrity, while maintaining conflict of interest policies that also protect patients and institutional integrity.

Task Force members discussed how to proceed with the issues outlined above. Members divided these issues into the following broad categories for the purposes of future discussions:
• **Disclosure** – definition of full disclosure.
• **Ethical Principles** – to include consideration of ethical principles underlying a conflict of interest policy and how best to articulate these principles within the policy.
• **Clinical Research** – to include consideration of human subjects research, limitations of financial compensation, and relationship with industry involving clinical trials.
• **Basic Science** – to include consulting and start-up activities and the scope of permissible interaction with industry.
• **Oversight, Review, and Monitoring** – to include discussion administrative support, compliance mechanisms on campus and interface of policy with other regulatory bodies.
• **Prohibited Activities** – to include discussion of those activities prohibited within a conflict of interest policy.

The Committee agreed to review the following areas in depth: Disclosure, Oversight, Review and Monitoring and Clinical Research at its next meeting including a discussion of underlying Ethical Principles. The Task Force agreed to meet monthly for two-hour meetings.

The meeting adjourned at 1 p.m.

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