The meeting of the Conflict of Interest Task Force was called to order by Chair Bikle on November 25, 2003 at 2:07 p.m. in Room S30. A quorum was present.

Questions for the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Conflict of Interest (COIAC)

At the meeting of September 30, 2003 task force members drafted a list of questions to forward to L. Bero, COIAC Chair. These questions were directed towards providing task force members with a better understanding of the review procedure for disclosures of financial conflict of interest by the COIAC. L. Bero and D. Rutter supplied task force members with written responses to these questions (attached). Following review of these responses, task force members discussed related issues. A summary of the discussion follows.

Disclosures of Conflicts of Interest

D. Rutter noted that different disclosure mechanisms exist for research projects involving private and state/federal funding. Following disclosure, the COIAC recommends further action on a case by case basis. Recommended actions may include acceptance of funding with no restrictions, acceptance of funding with restrictions, rejection of funding.

- The COIAC receives over 7,000 disclosures each year of which approximately 250 are positive.

- Travel reimbursement is regarded as income by the COIAC. However, such income is viewed differently than income from consulting fees, lecture fees, and the like.

- Non-competitive grant renewal applications require submission of a conflict of interest disclosure to the COIAC.

- Approximately three quarters of positive disclosures received by the COIAC pertain to research not involving human subjects.
Participation in Research

Research participants are not clearly defined by federal, state, or UC guidelines. Definitions of participants vary according to source of funding and type of research (e.g. human subject research vs. non-human subject research).

Distinctions Between Researchers

L. Bero noted that no distinction in disclosure requirements is made according to the position of the principal investigator. Distinctions in disclosure requirements exist according to the type of research proposed – specifically according to whether the proposed research involves human subjects or not. She also noted that different UC campuses employ different guidelines on conflict of interest. All UC campuses are subject to state and federal law but may operate under different guidelines within the parameters of these laws. L. Bero is currently conducting research into the different ways in which guidelines are employed at each campus and will forward the results of her research to the task force.

Membership of COIAC

L. Bero informed the task force that the COIAC currently comprises:

- Nine faculty members (with four year terms; subject to reappointment by Chancellor)
- Two members of the public (with unlimited terms)
- Three advisors

Each of the four UCSF schools is represented and there is representation of a broad range of disciplines.

Determination of Areas of Agreement and Disagreement

L. Sheiner distributed to task force members a draft document (attached) outlining areas of potential agreement and disagreement among members regarding possible recommended changes to the UCSF Guidelines on Conflict of Interest. He noted that much of the document will be subject to revision in light of the presentation made by L. Bero and D. Rutter. L. Sheiner agreed to revise the document and distribute the revised version to task force members by email. Members will comment on the document prior to the next meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:01 p.m.

Elizabeth Langdon-Gray
Senate Analyst
Elangdon-gray@senate.ucsf.edu
476-1307