COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM
Mark Eisner, MD, Chair

MINUTES
Tuesday, May 17, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. / Room S-118

Present: M. Eisner, S. Gansky, S. Gitelman, J. Lightwood, H. Pollick, V. Reus, M. Wallhagen
Excused: P. Braveman

The meeting of the Committee on Academic Freedom convened at 9:05 a.m. on Tuesday, May 17, 2005 in Room S-118. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of March 15, 2005 were approved with minor changes.

Chair’s Report

M. Eisner had no new issues to report but stated that Symposium planning for the fall is underway.

Systemwide Report

S. Gansky reported on several developments at the Systemwide level, including the following:

- **CA Senate Bill 5 – Student Bill of Rights**
  SB 5 is proposed legislation that would require UC to adopt and implement a “Student Bill of Rights,” a set of principles relating to academic freedom. The Office of the President is working with the Legislature to show that UC has adequate internal policies providing students with academic freedom protections and that legislation is not necessary.

- **Corporate Influence on Research**
  UCAF held discussion of corporate influence, conflict of interest and research integrity. The Committee also selected members to serve on a joint subcommittee with members of the University Committee on Research Policy to examine these issues.

- **Campus Research Policies**
  The Office of Research Integrity of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (USDHHS) has prompted a number of UC campuses to rewrite their policies on misconduct in research. In some cases, the policymaking processes utilized by campuses to conform with USDHHS requests have run afoul of UC shared governance principles. In particular, UC Davis is currently on its third draft of a new policy due to failure of timely communication
between the Administration and the Divisional Academic Senate. UCAF has requested that campuses draft a letter to their Vice Chancellors of Research reminding them of shared governance principles when drafting new research policies. The UCSF letter can be found here.

- **UC Institutional Review Boards**
  The UCLA campus raised the concern that Institutional Review Boards across campuses may be utilizing inconsistent ethical standards. To ensure uniformity, Committee members suggested that UC adopt a systemwide policy rather than allowing each campus to set its own standards. The need for such a policy may become moot as various campuses undergo USDHHS certifications, thus adopting the national standard of review.

- **Update from Academic Senate Chair – George Blumenthal**
  Universitywide Senate Chair Blumenthal presented the final version of the UC Academic Council Resolution on Restrictions on Research Funding Sources. The Resolution states that only individual investigators or the Regents can place limitations on sources of research funding. The Resolution will be submitted to the Regents for approval.

**Academic Freedom FAQ**

The Committee reviewed a draft Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Proposal and proposed revisions. Senate staff will incorporate these changes and circulate the final draft for approval via e-mail.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

*The meeting adjourned at 9:42 a.m.*

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Prepared by:
Alice Kessler
Senate Analyst/Coordinator
476-8827 / akessler@senate.ucsf.edu
www.ucsf.edu/senate