The meeting of the Committee on Academic Freedom convened at 9:10 a.m. on Wednesday, October 19, 2004 in Room S118. A quorum was present.

Chair's Report

Chair Eisner provided a brief overview of issues currently under consideration by the Committee. These include:

- Planning for a symposium on “Science, Government and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment”
- Raising awareness of the committee on campus and how best to publicize issues of academic freedom
- Ongoing consideration of academic freedom issues related to the receipt of funding from certain industries – particularly the tobacco industry

Chair Eisner noted that the system-wide Committee on Academic Freedom had not yet met this year. Chair Eisner will provide a system-wide report in November.

Tobacco Funding at UCSF

The Committee reviewed a policy adopted by the UCSF Department of Medicine in August, 2004 which states:

The UCSF Department of Medicine will not apply for or administer grants or other contracts funded by the tobacco industry. Further, the Department will not apply for or participate in research programs of organizations who derive funding from the tobacco industry.

Following extensive discussion of academic freedom issues related to this policy, Committee members agreed to draft a communication to Department of Medicine Chair, Lee Goldman, highlighting specific concerns regarding a possible lack of recourse for individual faculty not in agreement with (or in violation of) the new policy and general concerns regarding the need to ensure that the academic freedom of
individual faculty is safeguarded. Specifically, Committee members noted that the academic freedom of faculty members could potentially be compromised in instances where a faculty member’s only appointment is with a single department as opposed to faculty members who might also have appointments in a Center or Organized Research Unit (ORU). If the Center or ORU were to adopt a policy similar to that proposed by the Department of Medicine, a faculty member would be able to terminate their relationship with the Center or Unit, and still retain their departmental affiliation. The reverse would not be true and it would be impossible to renounce departmental membership. Committee members expressed concern that faculty who may not be in agreement with this policy would not have recourse to remove themselves from the department and would be obliged to accept a policy with which they do not agree.

Chair Eisner agreed to draft a communication reflecting the Committee’s concerns and will forward it to committee members for review by email prior to the next meeting of the committee.

[The Committee, as part of a larger Senate effort, considered whether or not UCSF should institute a similar policy in 2003-2004. Details of their debate and actions are available by clicking here].

**Discussion of Proposed Symposium**

The Committee briefly reviewed the draft proposal for a symposium on “Science, Government and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment” (attached).

Committee members agreed to schedule the symposium during UCSF Founder’s Week on April 26, 2005, providing that Cole Hall is available as a venue.

Committee members discussed with Senate Director Tamara Maimon key aspects of the logistics involved in organizing the symposium – particularly the availability of funding from the Senate Office. Ms. Maimon advised the Committee to finalize a list of invited speakers as soon as possible. The Senate Office will then work with the Committee to project costs associated with the symposium based on honoraria required by these speakers. The Senate Office may provide funding to cover honoraria and travel costs depending on the projected amount of these costs. Ms. Maimon further suggested that the Symposium take place at noon and indicated that the Senate Office will provide funding for costs related to providing light lunch refreshments. The Senate Office will also fund the distribution of publicity materials.

**New Business**

None.

**Old Business**

None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 a.m.
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