Chair Malloy called the Clinical Affairs Committee to order at 4:07 p.m. on Wednesday, March 30, 2005 in Room S-30. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of February 23, 2005 were approved with minor changes.

Chair’s Report

As a follow-up to the problem areas identified by the Clinical Operations Survey Report, Chair Malloy commented briefly on the status of the faculty mentoring program. On May 27, 2003, the Academic Senate Mentoring Task Force issued a report recommending best practices for developing a mentoring program at UCSF. Currently, the Chancellor’s Office is seeking to hire an individual to head the program in a part-time capacity. Chair Malloy will confer with Division Chair Zegans regarding the status of applications for the position and ways in which the Clinical Affairs Committee can get involved with this effort.

Physician Advisory Group (PAG) Report

K. Fye reported that the Physician’s Advisory Group (PAG) is currently considering ways to streamline inpatient note taking. Proposals under consideration include provider team use of Blackberries, computers on wheels (COWs), and/or centrally located cubicle work stations. Such upgrades will be costly, and financing strategies still need to be determined.

Update on Electronic Medical Record Systems

David Morgan

David Morgan, Executive Director of Information Technology at UCSF Medical Center, gave a presentation on the status of efforts to implement a comprehensive electronic medical record (EMR) system on campus. The reasons for needing an EMR are clear and were addressed in the Clinical Operations Survey Report. UCSF has already contracted with IDX for a clinical and financial information systems software suite. In
addition, capital has been placed on hold in the Master Hospital Plan in order to implement the EMR. The
greatest obstacle to implementation is that campus Information Technology Services (ITS) currently lacks
the bandwidth and human resources necessary to handle a project this large. Until ITS completes other
projects of top priority, the timeline for EMR implementation is unknown.

Some clinicians have expressed concern that the arrival of EMR will radically alter clinical practice. In
order to help clinicians adjust to such change, Executive Director Morgan hopes to implement EMR in a
test/pilot practice rollout of the new system. It is anticipated that this will help to identify challenges and
ensure a smooth transition.

Chair Malloy remarked that even though the EMR implementation timeline is unclear, it is helpful for
clinicians to have some sense of what to expect when the new system is rolled out. She recommended that
Medical Center IT staff send out an informational e-mail to and set up meetings with various practice
groups. Executive Director Morgan agreed to draft and vet an e-mail to Chair Malloy for the Academic
Senate to disseminate the message to clinical faculty across schools. Chair Malloy also suggested that the
Clinical Affairs Committee draft a communication to Chair Zegans urging action on EMR implementation
that could be transmitted to UCSF Medical Center CEO Mark Laret. Senate staff will help to coordinate
this communication.

**Documentation Requirements and Clinical Care**

Vice Chair Chertow brought forth the concern that the documentation needs of clinical care providers at
UCSF are not being met due to the increasing demands of medical billing. The problem is that all providers
will be required to dictate notes by July 1, 2005 for billing purposes. Dictation is not an efficient way of
documenting patient care because it requires transcription before co-providers and/or attending physicians
can obtain necessary information about patient history. In order for clinical care to be effective, turnaround
of documentation needs to be immediate. Many clinicians feel that billing should not trump patient care.

Chi-yuan Hsu in the Department of Nephrology has raised this concern with the Medical Faculty
Association. Vice Chair Chertow requested that the Clinical Affairs Committee also advocate for clinical
faculty regarding this issue. S. Kayser and K. Fye suggested that they could bring this issue forward at the
next PAG meeting. In addition, Chair Malloy suggested that Vice Chair Chertow draft a communication
from the Committee for transmittal to appropriate administrators and department chairs. Senate staff will
help to coordinate this initiative.

**Old Business**

None.

**New Business**

None.

*The meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.*
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Prepared by:
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