February 22, 2005

Report of the Subcommittee on the Health Sciences Institute Proposal to the Committee on Educational Policy

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Lynn, Mitch and Henry met together after the CEP meeting of January 25th, 2005. We began by discussing the existing Academy of Medical Educators at UCSF. This Academy came out of criticism from the LCME and was formed with a mission to advance and support medical education, faculty development, curriculum improvement and educational scholarship. The first appointees were named in 2001 and Molly Cook was appointed the director. There was an initial funding of $1.5M from the School of Medicine with an initial term of 5 years. There have been 61 members of the Academy since its inception and these members were selected on the basis of their distinction in the areas of teaching, mentoring, curriculum development and leadership, and educational scholarship. These members have been given grants and release from teaching to pursue the aims of the Academy. The developed curricula and members grant applications are on file in the office. The Academy has sponsored workshops on Faculty Development and has created web-based courses.

In spite of the excellent record of the Academy and its members, there has been no effort to disseminate the products of the Academy to other campuses of the University of California, nor to other schools at UCSF. As a result of our discussions, we agreed that:

1. Mitch would speak with Michael Wilkes, the chair of the Health Sciences Institute Planning Group and author of the report of June, 2004 that was forwarded to Michael Drake, Vice President of Health Affairs from the Office of the President of the University of California.

2. Lynn would speak with Dave Irby about similar initiatives that might be forthcoming from other UC campuses and

3. Henry would speak with Molly Cook about the role of the Academy of Medical Educators with the possible conclusion to bring up the issue of the H.S.I. at a forthcoming meeting of the Academy.

On February 18, 2005, Mitch and Lynn spoke with Michael Wilkes to get his ideas about such an institute. Michael is currently the Vice-Dean of Education at the School of Medicine at UC Davis and is funded by the NIH to develop the ideas of developing education resources that can be used both inside and potentially, outside the School of Medicine at UCD. He remains very enthusiastic and optimistic about a Health Sciences Institute spanning the University of California Medical Schools. As an example of such a
resource, he has purchased a $100K scanner at UCDavis (presumably with NIH grant funds) to scan in all the educational pathology slides to have available for all interested School of Medicine courses. They will then get rid of their projection microscopes. This type of resource would be very valuable to the other Medical campuses of the UC.

Michael Drake, from the Office of the President convenes a meeting of the Vice Deans of Education of the UC Medical School campuses on a quarterly basis. One idea that we had during the phone call, is to encourage Michael Drake to put the issue of the Health Sciences Institute on the agenda of an upcoming meeting and invite the chairs of the Educational Policy Committees of the 5 campuses as well. At such a meeting, the level of interest of the campuses, the initial required resources and the enthusiasm of the Office of the President, can all be discussed. If we were able to identify an initial project, key individuals on each campus and funds to facilitate the start-up, this could be the mechanism for developing a consensus of the value of such an Institute.

According to Michael Wilkes, initiatives such as the HS institute are not being discussed elsewhere in the UC system and no Health Science Institutes exist in other educational systems across the US. This is yet to be confirmed by David Irby, our UCSF Vice Dean of Education.

For such an Institute to be established, there would need to be a consensus that the Institute is desirable, important and worth the effort required to bring it into existence. This would probably require resources, identified leaders on each campus and an initial project to test the value of the Institute. As such, the next steps might be:

1. Arrange a conference call between the chairs of the Committees on Educational Policy to investigate the level of interest and to formulate a plan to present to the Office of the President.

2. Meet with the Vice-Deans of Education from the UC Medical campuses, Michael Drake and representatives from the Committees on Educational Policy at the medical campuses to discuss needed resources, a possible initial project and to identify key individuals.

3. Meet with the Executive Committee of the Academy of Medical Educators at UCSF to inform them of our plan, to discuss dissemination of existing material from the archives of the Academy, to discuss plans for involving other Schools at UCSF and to recruit resources and individuals to support the efforts of initiating such an Institute.

4. Inform, and possibly ask for the blessings of the Academic Senate for our plans.