Committee on Educational Policy
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Teaching Facilities Subcommittee Report
Committee on Educational Policy
University of California, San Francisco (UCSF)
Division of the Academic Senate

BACKGROUND
Teaching is one of the primary missions of UCSF. Its success depends on adequate educational facilities, in terms of the number and type of classrooms, their level of audio-visual equipment, and their availability. This infrastructure is often taken for granted, yet, as anyone who has taught classes at the Parnassus campus understands, it is frequently difficult to locate appropriately sized and equipped classrooms. This need will only grow as the campus changes and curricula evolve. For example, the recent curricular changes in the School of Medicine involving larger numbers of small groups have increased the demand for smaller, conference-sized rooms. The School of Dentistry will implement similar changes to its curriculum in the near future.

In addition to these, and potentially future, changes in curricula, UCSF is facing many other challenges in terms of its geographical distribution. Most immediate is the ongoing build-out of the Mission Bay campus, which will continue for a significant time in the future. This will entail not only graduate, academic programs and their associated research labs, but also one or more hospitals as well, with their associated clinical research and teaching components.

The lack of planning for educational facilities at Mission Bay is apparent. Viewed as a research campus, it is now the site for many graduate courses offered by programs currently based, at least in large part, at that site. Yet Genentech Hall, the first building to be occupied, has less than optimal classrooms for these courses, as most rooms were designed as seminar rooms rather than classrooms. As increasing numbers of courses are moved from Parnassus to Mission Bay, this should mitigate the shortage of teaching space at Parnassus. Similar scenarios could apply to other UCSF sites. Thus this subcommittee feels there is a need for more careful and systematic planning for educational facilities on a UCSF-wide basis, not just for the Parnassus campus.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for University Advancement and Planning has recently completed a thorough study of the demands for classrooms across all four professional schools and the graduate division, on the Parnassus site, including demands imposed on smaller rooms by the new medical school curriculum. Based on this study, an estimate has been made for the present and near future projected needs for additional classroom facilities on Parnassus.
RECOMMENDATIONS

This Subcommittee urges a more global UCSF view of educational facilities, so that planning occurs with all campus sites considered. This should be done with the broadest of perspectives, projecting out to the next twenty years. Such a plan should involve the following:

1. Re-evaluation of the currently available documents from the office of the Vice Chancellor for University Advancement and Planning for both their immediate and future applicability, particularly regarding educational facilities requirements on the Parnassus Campus.

2. Creation of a similar plan for all other UCSF sites and a joining of these together to form a global, UCSF blueprint. This plan should project changes in all campus sites into the future and how UCSF will respond: increases in programs entail increased need for educational facilities while moves may involve shifts in resources.

3. Evaluation of plans for any increased enrollment in graduate and professional programs and the corresponding impact on projections for classroom facilities. Similarly, evaluation of the effects on teaching facilities of the build-out of one or more hospitals on the Mission Bay site.

4. Consideration of faculty needs when traveling to other sites for teaching. For example, common office space available for visiting faculty to minimize loss of productive time associated with travel for teaching at other than their home site.

5. A plan to make some, if not all, of the small conference rooms currently under departmental or divisional control, available for campus teaching needs, with the highest priority in scheduling given to the current owners of these rooms.

6. The possibility that some of the Parnassus release space be devoted to teaching space.

7. When new teaching space is constructed, it should be designed with the maximum technology and space configuration flexibility in order to accommodate different teaching needs.

8. Development of a UCSF conference center for hosting educational activities outside the normal range of degree courses. For example, with the recent decision to site the headquarters for the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine in San Francisco, UCSF would be a natural choice to host courses and conferences in this rapidly growing field to be attended by researchers and students from around the world.

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Advancement and Planning has expressed a willingness to work with the Academic Senate in establishing such a plan. We recommend that the Senate undertake such an effort by forming a Task Force comprised of Senate members and UCSF administrators to develop a suitable plan.

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