COMMITTEE ON ACADEMIC FREEDOM
Stuart Gansky, DrPh, Chair

MINUTES
Thursday, September 15, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. / Room S-30

Present: M. Eisner, S. Gansky, S. Gitelman, M. Kupperman, J. Lightwood, V. Reus, M. White
Absent: H. Pollick

The meeting of the Committee on Academic Freedom convened at 9:06 a.m. on Thursday, September 15, 2005 in Room S-30. A quorum was present.

Chair’s Report / Welcome

Chair Gansky welcomed members of the Committee and summarized the 2004-2005 Committee on Academic Freedom Annual Report by way of background to the Committee’s work. He also noted the distinction between the Committee on Academic Freedom and the Committee on Privilege and Tenure. In addition, Chair Gansky explained Committee attendance rules and the UCSF Academic Senate review and approval process.

Distribution of Orientation Materials

Senate staff distributed orientation materials to Committee members and outlined the ways in which the Academic Senate Office can provide support and be utilized as a resource to advance Committee goals. Distributed materials included:

• Committee on Academic Freedom Membership Roster
• Committee on Academic Freedom Meeting Schedule
• UCSF Academic Senate Important Dates and Deadlines
• Flow Chart on UCSF Academic Senate Review and Approval Process
• Bylaws of the Committee on Academic Freedom
• 2004-2005 Committee on Academic Freedom Annual Report
• Senate Staff Contact Information

Systemwide Report

M. Eisner, the 2005-2006 UCSF representative to the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF), stated that a number of issues from 2004-2005 will continue to be important this year at the systemwide level. These issues include the Patriot Act, student academic freedom and the proposed “Student Bill of Rights,” corporate influence on research, and standards utilized by campus institutional review boards.
Discussion of Proposed Symposium on “Science, Government and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment”

Chair Gansky provided background information on the proposed Symposium on “Science, Government and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment.” Symposium planning has been underway since Fall of 2004. The Committee agreed to postpone the Symposium until Spring of 2006 in order to secure four or more speakers from government and academia.

Discussion: ACS Lobbies to Shut Down PubChem

Chair Gansky informed the Committee that the American Chemical Society (ACS) is currently lobbying Congress to shut down PubChem, a freely accessible database that connects chemical information with biomedical research and clinical information. The Academic Council has already transmitted a letter to ACS stating its concerns regarding the potential shutdown. S. Gansky suggested that the Committee on Academic Freedom consider forming an ad hoc committee with the Committee on Library to take further action on behalf of the UCSF campus. S. Gansky also suggested that J. Lightwood publicize this issue in the School of Pharmacy.

Antiprostitution Pledge for AIDS Investigators

S. Gansky informed the Committee that under the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR), US-based AIDS groups working in foreign countries are now required to take an oath against prostitution before they can obtain federal funds. The Committee expressed concern over the potential impact of this policy on UCSF researchers working overseas. The Committee agreed to revisit this issue at the next Committee meeting to further consider what action, if any, the Academic Senate should take.

Follow-up: UCSF Cancer Center Protocol Review

The Committee on Academic Freedom has been requested by Deborah Greenspan, DSc, BDS, Chair of the UCSF Academic Senate, to follow up on the Cancer Center Protocol Review Committee report that was issued by the Committee on Academic Freedom in February of 2004. Chair Gansky will be the point person coordinating this effort.

New Business

None.

The meeting adjourned at 10:27 a.m.

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Prepared by:
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