The Academic Senate Clinical Affairs Committee met on Wednesday March 22, 2006.

General Issues before the Committee

1. Communication from CAC with Clinical Faculty
   Reports of the issues and problems raised by and for the Clinical Affairs Committee have been previously circulated only to members of the Academic Senate with a 50% appointment or more. Therefore, most of the clinicians in the University community have been unaware of the efforts of the Senate to identify and voice the clinical concerns of the faculty to the leadership of the University and the Medical Center. From now on the CAC “Alert” will be circulated to all clinical faculty. The clinical faculty are encouraged to contact the CAC with any issues or concerns that need attention. The CAC can only be an effective advocate for the clinical faculty if it is aware of their concerns.

2. CAC as Advisory Body to the UCSF Medical Center
   It is clear that the CAC at present is not able to effectively fulfill its responsibility as an advisory body to the leadership of the University and Medical Center. The CAC has, at best, been an inefficient conduit of information from the leadership back to the clinical faculty concerning decisions that have already been made. The Executive Committee of the Academic Senate is aware of this issue and is taking steps to empower the CAC so that it can fulfill its mandate.

3. WASC Accreditation
   UCSF is now preparing for accreditation by the Western Association of Colleges and Universities (WASC). This accreditation is based on the quality of the present and future educational experience of the student body of the University. It does not depend upon the experience or quality of the residency and fellowship programs within the medical center. However, all of the federal funding that helps to support those residency and fellowship programs (on the order of $100,000,000) depends on this accreditation. Therefore, it behooves us all to help the Academic Senate in any way we can with the accreditation process.

4. Scholarly Communications
   The development of electronic scholarly communications has raised major questions regarding the nature of scientific publications. How do we, as an academic community, deal with such issues as
copyright, authorship, and peer review in the modern climate of electronic communications? A series of “white papers” concerning this issue are available from the Academic Senate, who encourage any of the faculty to voice their views on this issue.

School-Specific Issues

School of Pharmacy
The School of Pharmacy has played a major role in the formation and functioning of the Anti-coagulation Clinic. This clinic has been a valuable resource for both patients and clinical faculty. Apparently, the existence of the Anti-coagulation Clinic is in question. It would be helpful if the CAC had some feedback from the clinical faculty at large vis-à-vis the value and/or problems associated with this clinic.

School of Nursing
The nursing school has been particularly concerned about the effect that electronic communications are having on scholarly publications. Issues concerning positions for Nurse Practitioners within the university system have been raised in past meetings but have been tabled. The CAC is inviting views of the clinical faculty on this issue.

School of Dentistry
Representative not present.

School of Medicine
The inability of PICIS to “talk” to UCare is still a problem. Although clinicians have, for the most part, managed to work around the problem, the inability of the physicians caring for a patient on the floor to have access to the events that occurred in the operating and recovery rooms is, if nothing else, disconcerting. Dr. Blum has been invited to attend a meeting of the CAC to discuss this issue.

The Clinical Affairs Committee encourages every interested clinician to respond to this Alert. Our mandate is to voice your views concerning clinical matters at UCSF. We can only do that if you communicate your concerns. Please send your comments to CAC via the Academic Senate by e-mail to ucsfsenate@senate.ucsf.edu.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Chair, Clinical Affairs Committee
UCSF Academic Senate