The meeting of the San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate was called to order by Chair Zegans on June 9, 2005 at 12:08 p.m. in Room N-217 on the Parnassus Heights Campus.

Minutes

The minutes of the Divisional meeting of March 24, 2005 were approved with no changes.

Announcements from the Chair

Chair Zegans stated that it has been an honor and privilege to serve as Chair of the UCSF Division of the Academic Senate and commented on the successes of the past two years, as well as the challenges that lie ahead. Some of the Senate’s recent accomplishments include the Report of the Task Force on Faculty Recruitment, Retention and Promotion; the updated Faculty Handbook for Success; the growth of the Committee on Courses on Instruction; and the planning of the Symposium on “Science, Government and Academic Freedom in a Polarized Political Environment.” For the first time, the UCSF Division has also obtained funding from Administration to compensate Senate leaders for their service.

Future challenges facing the Senate will include rising graduate student fees that hinder recruitment of a diverse student body; faculty recruitment and retention; and adequate representation of Clinical faculty in the shared governance framework. Chair Zegans concluded his remarks by recognizing the contributions of several Senate members, including Stan Glantz, Joe Guglielmo, Deborah Greenspan, David Gardiner, Jean Olsen and Mary Malloy.

Special Orders

Certificate of Appreciation Presented to Gary Armitage, Professor, School of Dentistry

Chair Zegans presented Gary Armitage, Professor and Chair of the Academic Senate Task Force on Faculty Recruitment, Retention and Promotion with a Certificate of Appreciation for his superb service on the Task Force. Chair Zegans applauded Dr. Armitage for shepherding this important effort and issuing an outstanding report with substantive recommendations for Administration. Dr. Armitage made brief remarks and accepted the Certificate on behalf of the Task Force.

Approval of Committee on Committees Appointments

The Committee on Committees Appointment Roster for the 2005-2006 academic year was approved with no changes.
Reports of Standing Committees

Committee on Faculty Welfare – Robert Newcomer, PhD, Chair
R. Newcomer reported that the Committee on Faculty Welfare has addressed a number of faculty welfare concerns this year, focusing on areas where campus practices diverge from policy. Among other things, the Committee has examined the Health Care Facilitator Program; the Faculty Assistance Program; and various benefits plans, including the legal plan, the new 457(b) retirement plan and the supplemental disability insurance plan. R. Newcomer stated that a major issue of concern this year has been the UC Retirement System. While administrative and legislative proposals to eliminate defined benefit plans for public employees, including UC employees, are currently on hold, the continued viability of this program is in question. UC has hired a consulting firm to investigate other retirement plan options. Finally, R. Newcomer reported on the likelihood that UC will need to make employer contributions to the Retirement System in the near future. The Committee on Faculty Welfare has formed a joint subcommittee with the Committee Academic Planning and Budget to address this and anticipate financing issues that may affect faculty.

Committee on Library – Adele Clark, PhD, Chair
A. Clark reported that the Committee on Library has had a very busy year. Prominent issues before the Committee have included American Chemical Society (ACS) efforts to shut down PubChem, a freely available resource developed and managed by the National Library of Medicine to support the NIH Roadmap Molecular Libraries Initiative; the rising costs of books and electronic journals; Library funding cuts; and the targeting of Kalmanovitz Library for increased classroom space at Parnassus. A. Clark added that the Executive Vice Chancellor has formed a Library Planning Committee and hired consultants from peer institutions to examine ways in which Library space could be converted to educational space. University Librarian Karen Butter will release an initial communication from the Library Planning Committee shortly. A. Clark also noted that the earlier request from administration for space in the Mission Bay library has been retracted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m. In his closing remarks, Chair Zegans urged the Senate to focus on issues that will be important in the next two years. These include UC budget constraints, as well as the increasing limitations being placed on universities as places of scientific and intellectual inquiry in the current political climate.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon Levine, MD, PhD
Professor and Division Secretary