Communication from the Committee on Library
Thomas B. Newman, MD, MPH, Chair

June 18, 2006

Deborah Greenspan, DSc, BDS
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate
Campus Box 0764

Dear Chair Greenspan:

In response to Executive Vice Chancellor Gene Washington’s request to review the Library Space Planning Reports, the Committee on Library has assembled this report summarizing the Committee’s findings and comments related to library space planning. These findings are based on discussions both within, and outside, the Committee over the past year and a half.

Three reports were prepared to evaluate options to repurpose space in the UCSF Library:

- Consultants’ Report Regarding Kalmanovitz Library – April 2005
- Report and Recommendations on Library Space Utilization – July 2005
- Recommendations to Repurpose University of California, San Francisco Library Space – March 2006.

The Committee recognizes that library space needs have changed in many ways. Some of the changes include: the way information is delivered and used; the impact of technology and digitization of materials; the geographic distribution of the UCSF community; and the new ways to teach, learn, research and treat patients. Additionally, there is an acute awareness of the pressing need for new rooms on campus, especially for small interactive group learning and discussion.

Findings and Comments

1. Members of the Committee on Library have a passionate commitment to the library and take very seriously their role to be strong advocates for the library’s continued excellence and improvement. As a center for knowledge and learning at UCSF, dedicated to the entire campus community, the library has a symbolic, as well as a practical significance; it is a sacred space dedicated to serving and assisting further development of all the campus’ various intellectual missions. Any repurposing of library space should enhance the library, not just solve the campus space problem.

2. Reprogramming of library space should be consistent with the principles outlined in the Final Report Report and Recommendations on Utilization of Kalmanovitz Library Space, July 2005, Library Space Planning Principles, p.3.
3. Library space should be repurposed with consideration as to how the new activities complement and expand existing library programs.

4. The Library, with consultation from the Committee on Library, should maintain control of the space and its use.

5. The Committee supports repurposing some space (up to perhaps 10,000 square feet) on the second floor of the library for state-of-the-art, small group classrooms and interactive spaces with videoconferencing facilities. The Committee also supports creation and enhancement of videoconferencing capabilities at all other UCSF locations as well.

6. The Committee supports creation of new “touch-down” work areas for faculty who have their primary offices on sites other than Parnassus.

7. The Committee concurs with tentative plans for the relocation of bound volumes as identified in the March, 2006 Report of the Working Group on Library Space Planning. Decisions about which bound volumes to keep on site should take into account the availability of the content in electronic format, as well as the needs and customary use patterns of the different scholarly disciplines represented at UCSF.

8. The Committee is receptive to the following other recommendations/suggestions for alternate use of library space: 1) the possibility of installing a café in the library; 2) creating a “UCSF only” reading area which would be restricted to members of the UCSF campus and 3) improved layout and facilities for computer use, interactive learning, and library staff consultation.

The Committee on Library appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposed repurposing of the Kalmanovitz Library and hopes to continue working together to assist in implementing meaningful changes to the library space.

Sincerely,

Committee on Library
Thomas B. Newman MD, MPH, Chair
David Teitel, MD, Vice Chair
Judith Barker, PhD, Member
Eberhard Fiebig, MD, Member
Ilona Frieden, MD, Member
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