February 11, 2008

TO: David Gardner, MD, Senate Chair
   Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH, Vice-Chair
   Kit Chesla, RN, DNSc, FAAN, Acting Chair, Senate Planning and Budget Committee
   Gene Washington, MD, Executive Vice Chancellor
   Steve Barclay, Senior Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration
   Bruce Spaulding, Senior Vice Chancellor, University Advancement and Planning
   Lori Yamauchi, MCRP, Asst. Vice Chancellor, Campus Planning
   Sam Hawgood, MB, BS, Interim Dean, School of Medicine
   Mary Anne Koda-Kimble, PharmD, School of Pharmacy
   John D.B. Featherstone, MSc, PhD, Interim Dean, School of Dentistry
   Kathleen Dracup, RN, FNP, DNSc, FAAN, Dean, School of Nursing
   Bruce Wintroub, MD, Vice Dean

FROM: Nancy E. Adler, PhD, Director, CHC

Subject: Laurel Heights Conference Center Space

I am writing on behalf of the academic units that constitute the Center for Health and Community (detailed below) and the Global Health Sciences Program. We are writing to request a change in the categorization of the auditorium and other conference room space in Laurel Heights to have it consistent with similar space on the Parnassus and Mission Bay campuses. Because this request affects academic programs, we are addressing this request to appropriate administrative officers as well as Academic Senate leaders.

This request is on behalf of the academic units at Laurel Heights. These units use the conference facilities (the auditorium and some of the larger meeting rooms) for a variety of academic purposes. We are writing to ask that this space be designated as academic space. Indeed, until now, we thought it was designated as academic space. We would like it to be assigned to Student Academic Affairs for scheduling rather than to Millberry Union as it is now administered. The fact that it is now overseen by Millberry is an accident of history arising from the fact that this space was used as a source of funds before the Laurel Heights campus was occupied with academic programs. With the development of the Laurel Heights campus as an academic campus, the old arrangement of having this space managed as a money-making enterprise is no longer appropriate.

We have not protested before this since our programs were given free usage of the facilities and we were not aware that these facilities were treated differently than other academic space. However, we recently learned of a proposal to turn the conference space in Laurel Heights into a Human Resources Educational Center and remove it from the pool of scheduled space available to support UCSF’s academic mission. In looking into this proposal, we discovered the inequality with how space is defined and supported at the various campuses. Tracy Gearlds wrote us that the LHT’s conference space is “an auxiliary enterprise” which “relies almost entirely on rental revenues to sustain the operation.” It is unclear why LHTs should be required to rely on rental revenue rather than be supported by the campus’ academic budget and included in the calculation of indirect costs for the academic enterprise. Similar facilities at other UCSF sites do not have to rely wholly on their rental revenues.

Classifying this as classroom space through Student Academic Affairs is in line with procedures on the other campus sites. On Parnassus one can reserve auditoriums such
as Cole Hall, Toland Hall, and N-225 or the HSW rooms which hold 150-200 people. On the Mission Bay campus there are two auditoriums which hold 250 people and 77 people respectively. The only rooms in Laurel Heights with this capacity are in the Conference Center area. There was another such room next to the cafeteria but that was taken out of circulation for use by the Child Care Center. Every academic campus needs to have such capacity. It is unfair that the academic units at Laurel Heights do not have this on the same basis as do those on Parnassus or Mission Bay.

The Laurel Heights building was developed as an academic campus for social, behavioral and policy sciences. It was on that basis that the various units agreed to move into the building from their previous locations. A major reason for the moves was that Laurel Heights would provide a true academic campus for the programs and increase their effectiveness, as well as allow for more interaction. The development of the building as an academic campus was also the basis for the EIR for the building and the presentation to neighborhood groups who had opposed the university’s development of the building. The decision to devote the building primarily to this use was reached after an intense and public period of planning, and its continued use as an academic campus is inherent in the new Strategic Plan.

Last year we submitted a vision for expansion of academic space within the building to allow units that are now facing serious space shortages to expand, and to provide space for new interdisciplinary cross-unit activities. The proposed plan to remove the conference center space from general use is going in exactly the opposite direction. It is disturbing that this plan was developed with no input from the academic units at Laurel Heights. None of us was informed that this was even being considered, much less asked for comment. We learned about it only because we were trying to reserve space and were told that no reservations were being taken because of this pending plan. How could the plan have advanced so far without consultation with the faculty and programs that it will affect?

We understand that with budget constraints there is a need to generate revenue and we have no objection to the use of the Laurel Heights conference facilities for use by outside groups. Indeed, its use by community groups is in keeping with the university’s engagement with the community. Such use, however, should be governed by the rules that apply to other academic space (such as Cole Hall), where serving the University’s academic mission is given clear priority.

CHC units:
Adolescent Medicine, Behavioral Pediatrics and General Pediatrics*
Anthropology, History and Social Medicine*
Arthritis Research Center*
Cancer Epidemiology*
Center for Aging in Diverse Communities*
Center for AIDS Prevention Services
Center for Consumer Self Care*
Bixby Center for Reproductive Health Research and Policy*
Center for the Health Professions*
Center on Social Disparities in Health*
Center on Aging
Comprehensive Cancer Center
Family and Community Medicine
Family Outcomes Health Project
Health Psychology*
Institute for Health and Aging*
Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies*
Medical Effectiveness Research Center for Diverse Populations
National Center for Excellence in Women’s Health
Osher Center for Integrative Medicine
Preventative and Restorative Dental Sciences*
Social and Behavioral Sciences*
Global Health Sciences*

*Indicates CHC Units at Laurel Heights