Communication from the Chair of the Task Force to Review the Proposal to Create the Department of Emergency Medicine
Deborah Adey, MD, Chair

April 14, 2008

David Gardner, MD
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate
500 Parnassus Avenue, Box 0764

Re: Task Force Report on the Proposal to Create the Department of Emergency Medicine

Dear Chair Gardner:

As requested, the Task Force to Review the Proposal to Create the Department of Emergency Medicine has reviewed the available data. The initial review including the proposal submitted by Michael Callaham, Division Chief of Emergency Medicine for the establishment of a new Department of Emergency Medicine. Following that review, Ellen Weber, Professor in the Division of Emergency Medicine provided responses to our initial concerns with the proposal. I have met with Bruce Wintroub, Vice Dean for Clinical Affairs in the School of Medicine to better understand the financial arrangements and structure of the proposal.

Overall the task force is overall in favor of this proposal. I reviewed in detail the financial structure of the newly proposed department and it appears to be a financially viable endeavor. One of our primary concerns was a perceived revenue loss based on the projected receipts and structure in the original proposal. After meeting with Vice Dean Wintroub, it is clear that the revenue flow is more than adequate to support the proposed Department of Emergency Medicine.

We had concerns about the impact of the secession of Emergency Medicine from the Department of Medicine. I received a letter of support from Dr. Talmadge King for the Department of Emergency Medicine (attached).

Along with the issues of money comes the issue of space. As space is always a precious commodity at UCSF, and particularly at the Parnassus site, there were concerns that the lack of available space for expansion might adversely affect the ability to develop this new Department. However, space is available at the San Francisco General site. My understanding from my conversations with Vice Dean Wintroub is that the San Francisco General site will be the hub of the Emergency Department operations. Additionally, the concerns we expressed regarding the lack of space for support staff for the residency program will need to be primarily absorbed by the San Francisco General space.

Research is an integral aspect of any academic department of academic medical center. The Emergency Department staff is a relatively young faculty with limited available mentorship within the Department.
Again however, the onus will be largely on the San Francisco General for leadership and mentorship. This combined with opportunity for collaborative research with other departments should provide ample opportunity for the development of research projects and the mentorship of junior faculty, fellows, and residents.

Our final concern was with respect to faculty development: there is a heavy reliance on medical staff physicians (MSP) for provision of clinical services. Apparently there are several Emergency Department physicians who work as MSPs, are happy in these positions, and by fulfilling the clinical responsibilities provide opportunities for pursuit of academic endeavors by physicians on an academic track. A dual track plan is in place for faculty either being on a clinical track or an academic track. Issues regarding recruitment, retention, and promotion will need to be developed.

The Task Force to Review the Proposal for a Department of Emergency Medicine feels that the foundation for establishing this new Department is in place. Review of the budget proposal and funds flow indicates this is financially feasible. The Department will be based out of San Francisco General, where there is more experience, more space, and more opportunity for expansion.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this proposal. Should you have any questions or need more information, please do not hesitate to contact me (415)353-4783 or Deborah.Adey@ucsf.edu.

Sincerely,

Deborah B. Adey MD
Associate Clinical Professor
Chair, Task Force to Review the Proposal to Create the Department of Emergency Medicine

CC: Task Force Members
    Claire Brett, MD, Committee on Academic Personnel
    John Maa, MD, Clinical Affairs Committee
    Joan Etzell, MD, Committee on Educational Policy
    Joseph Rabban, MD, Committee on Educational Policy

Enclosures: Letter from Talmadge King to David Gardner Regarding the Proposed Department of Emergency Medicine, February 2, 2008
February 2, 2008

David Gardner, MD
President
Academic Senate
University of California, San Francisco

Re: Department of Emergency Medicine

Dear Dr. Gardner and Members of the Academic Senate,

As Chairman of the Department of Medicine, I wish to express my full support for the formation of a separate Department of Emergency Medicine, encompassing the two Divisions of Emergency Medicine at Parnassus and San Francisco General Hospital.

The faculty members in these two Divisions have demonstrated commitment to a sound academic and research tradition, excellent clinical care and an ability to educate housestaff and medical students from a variety of disciplines. It is fully appropriate and important that Emergency Medicine have department status at UCSF.

I am fully aware of the financial impact this will have on the Department of Medicine, yet stand by my belief that Emergency Medicine should be an independent department. Michael Callaham will be an outstanding chair and I look forward to working with him throughout the transition.

Sincerely yours,

Talmadge E. King, Jr. M.D.
Professor and Chair
Department of Medicine, UCSF