Communication from the Committee on Educational Policy
Thomas Kearney, PharmD, Chair

August 9, 2010

Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, MPH
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate
500 Parnassus Avenue, Box 0764

Re: End of Year Report for Chancellor

Dear Chair Fuentes Afflick,

Per UCSF Academic Senate Bylaw 115, the duties of the Committee on Educational Policy (CEP) include reporting to the Chancellor and/or the Division on matters related to educational policy at UCSF. To that end, CEP members have drafted this communication for you to convey to the Chancellor the importance and mutual benefit of linking interprofessional education with educational technology at UCSF. Interprofessional education refers to educational offerings that transcend professional boundaries that currently separate the health science professions, i.e. medicine, nursing, pharmacy or dentistry. This should facilitate the transition of students into practitioners and effective members of healthcare teams.

For the past two years, the committee has focused its efforts on furthering interprofessional education and educational technology. As a culmination of that focus, and as a summary of the gap committee members see existing in the intention and the reality of interprofessional education and education technology, the Committee proposes the following by 2012:

1. Interprofessional Education (IPE) at UCSF. Success for this concept would include creation of the capacity to educate as many as 500 students in a single course subject at one time. Whether the education is conveyed in a physical space or via an educational technology system such as online education, the Committee supports whichever will more effectively solidify interprofessional education at UCSF. This capacity should be developed in conjunction with the Student Academic Affairs, including the Registrar.

2. Require that each school and professional program include interprofessional education components.

3. Designate an administrative home for interprofessional education at UCSF. Currently IPE at UCSF is addressed by multiple task forces and groups within the campus. Committee members recommend that Student Academic Affairs would be the right administrative unit to have responsibility for interprofessional education at UCSF. Chair Thomas Kearney has communicated this recommendation to Vice Provost, Student Academic Affairs, and Special Assistant to the Chancellor, Joseph Castro.

During the recent academic year, committee members heard presentations from the Interprofessional Task Force (IPETF) as well as from the Educational Systems Advisory Committee (ESAC), with the intention of seeking concrete opportunities to grow both interprofessional education and education technology at UCSF. The committee gave feedback to both groups on elements missing from their reports.
and sincerely hopes these are considered when drafting future reports to UCSF campus and school leadership.

Committee members recognize some progress has been made towards fostering interprofessional education at UCSF through synchronizing the academic calendar between all schools. However it is uncertain if the reserved timeslot on Monday afternoons for interdisciplinary courses has been utilized. We suggest there be proactive advertising of this opportunity to faculty and students. Furthermore, that quantification of current clerkship and “informal” IPE activities be assessed.

In the arena of education technology, the committee recognized that a significant disparity exists between schools and departments regarding technology support. The institution should strive for a centralized support system. Our priorities are modernization of classrooms, as well as improved classroom access with the ability to accommodate large numbers of students. Modernization extends from issues of safety and environment with adequate ventilation of laboratories to connectivity and content capture.

Committee members strongly believe, based on two years of research, that linking educational technology with interprofessional education is a mutually beneficial concept. Interprofessional education will benefit from improved educational technology, and may not be feasible without it. We must create a flexible and efficient physical and electronic interface between all disciplines for instruction and delivery of patient care. The upcoming SIM center in the library should serve as a nidus for this initiative. Education technology will have increased utilization rates and return on investment if interprofessional education is fostered and appropriately supported at UCSF campuses.

Members of the Committee on Educational Policy look forward to working with you and the Chancellor on developing and instituting these ideas.

Sincerely,

The Committee on Educational Policy

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