Communication from the Committee on Faculty Welfare
Grayson W. (Bill) Marshall, DDS, PhD, MPH, Chair

April 28, 2011

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

Re: Academic Senate Statement Supporting Marriage Equality as a Health Policy Issue

Dear Chair Fuentes-Afflick,

At the request of faculty members, including the Chair and Vice Chair of the Chancellor’s Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Center of Excellence, the Academic Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare reviewed and discussed the disparities in health quality and access to health care facing LGBT couples and their families. Both anecdotal and peer-reviewed research in this area has shown that prohibited access to legal marriage for same-sex couples has a detrimental effect on the healthy welfare of LGBT families as well as their equitable access to health care services. In support of the well-being of our fellow LGBT UCSF faculty, staff, students and their families, the Committee on Faculty Welfare recommends that the San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate adopt the following statement:

“The San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate of the University of California recognizes the significant disparity in both access to health care and a positive health environment for its LGBT faculty, staff, students and their families. Evidence has shown that marriage-inequality is a significant factor in this health care disparity and the Academic Senate expresses its support for marriage equality for its LGBT faculty, staff, students and their families.”

This statement has been vetted and approved by campus counsel as a statement from a faculty body and not representative of a position of the University as an institution. The Committee on Faculty Welfare therefore submits this statement for your review and submission to the Coordinating Committee and the Division for approval.

Sincerely,

The Committee on Faculty Welfare
Grayson W. Marshall, DDS, PhD, MPH, Chair  Maria Dall’Era, MD
Paul Green, PhD, Vice Chair  Brent Lin, DMD
Pam Bellefeuille, RN, MN, CNS  Abraham Rudolph, MD
Carolyn Calfee, MD  Jae Sevelius, PhD
Christine Cheng, PharmD  Lisa Thompson, FNP, MS, PhD