Communication from the Chair of the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication
George Rutherford, MD, Chair

December 6, 2011

Robert Newcomer, PhD
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate
500 Parnassus Avenue, Box 0764

RE: Recommendation on Mission Bay Library Space

Dear Chair Newcomer,

As you know, the UCSF Mission Bay campus has undergone dramatic growth during the past decade. A majority of graduate programs are now located at Mission Bay with students expecting library services and study space comparable to that found on Parnassus. Additionally, more than 500 graduate and professional school students, as well as postdoctoral scholars live in Mission Bay housing and many of them spend significant amounts of time at Mission Bay, especially at night and on weekends. New research and clinical buildings such as the Orthopaedic Institute, the Cardiovascular Research Building, and the Helen Diller Family Cancer Center are either fully operational or coming on-line shortly. Finally, the planned UCSF Medical Center at Mission Bay will generate even greater demand for expanded library services, particularly from medical students, residents, clinical fellows, and patients.

Recognizing the ongoing demand for space, the Campus Library worked with the Academic Senate Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC) to develop a Master Plan that articulates Library Space requirements for the next 5-10 years. This Master Plan was submitted to Executive Vice Chancellor Washington February 2009 and is enclosed for your review.

The plan identifies two critical issues. First, on the Parnassus campus students need 24-hour library access for study. While the Parnassus Library was originally designed with a separate area for 24-hour access in mind, the dedicated space was never utilized in this capacity due to issues of accessibility and lack of a restroom. Efforts are underway to secure funding for the required space upgrades.
Second, at Mission Bay there are two small library spaces but these are inadequate to meet current demand and future growth. Moreover, one of these will soon be converted into laboratory teaching space, and the other library in the student center closes early in the evening due to building hours and is almost always filled to capacity. Thus, there is no permanent library space at Mission Bay with safe and secure 24-hour access.

The COLASC urges the Academic Senate, and any relevant Senate Committees to endorse strongly the recommendations outlined in the Library Master Plan, especially for a larger consolidated library at Mission Bay, and to encourage Campus Administration to secure crucial space and funding. Given current needs, we feel that such new library space must be a reality when the UCSF Medical Center opens in 2014.

Yours truly,

Richard Schneider, PhD
Chair, Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication

Enclosure: Master Plan for Mission Bay Libraries