July 2, 2012

Dear UCSF Faculty Colleagues,

This is an update on the status of our campus plans to extend Senate membership to HS Clinical and Adjunct Professors at the rank of Associate or Full Professor beginning July 1, 2012. This proposed action was initially discussed at the UC Systemwide Academic Council meeting on March 21. It was then referred to the UC Rules & Jurisdiction (UCR&J) committee for review. Their preliminary ruling was received by the Academic Council (the membership of which includes the Senate Chairs from all campuses) and discussed at the June 27 meeting. UCR&J rejected the arguments put forward by UCSF claiming our right to determine Senate membership of our faculty. UCR&J either did not consider, or failed to acknowledge the position suggested by the UC Office of General Counsel (OGC) that the Standing Orders of the Regents are ambiguous on the question of whether these orders delegate the authority to our campus Senate to determine its own membership. OGC suggests that this issue should be resolved by the Regents.

Where does this leave us? First, we have to delay implementation of the extension of ‘Senate’ membership on our campus to Health Sciences Clinical and Adjunct professor series faculty that had been announced in our March 20 letter. We continue to pursue this issue on several fronts and hope for clarification by the end of the 2012-13 fiscal year. More immediately, we are continuing to identify and will be working to amend the bylaws and other rules that have historically been barriers to equal rights and privileges for all full time faculty members.

Key among these rights are the following, all of which are in the process of being addressed at the appropriate campus or Systemwide level.

- Access to Privilege and Tenure Committee reviews
- Assignment to UCSF Senate Committees
- Ability to chair dissertation committees
- The right to vote on faculty hire and promotions and to be voted upon

Three rights and privileges are subject to additional Systemwide criteria. These are eligibility for MOP loans, automatic awarding of Emeritus Professor status upon retirement and the right to vote as a UCSF representative on Systemwide Senate Committees. These rights, along with Senate membership itself, may require Regents approval. We will be working with our campus leadership to have these issues brought before the Regents for discussion, if needed.

If you have questions or need more information, please contact me at robert.newcomer@ucsf.edu

Sincerely,

Robert Newcomer, PhD
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate