Committee on Academic Freedom
Mohana Amirtharajah, MD

MINUTES
Friday, November 16, 2012

PRESENT: Mohana Amritharajah (Chair), Thuan Le, Michelle Arkin, Kit Chesla, Mark Hawk, Roberta Keller

The Committee on Academic Freedom (CAF) was called to order by Chair Amritharajah on November 16, 2012 at 3:10pm in U506. A quorum was present.

Chair’s Report
After leading introductions, Chair Amritharajah had these announcements:

- Review of the charge of the committee.
- The UCSF Open Access Policy was passed at the May 2012 Division Meeting of the Academic Senate. Rich Schneider, Chair of the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication (COLASC) reported that implementation of the policy has been going well. As expected, some journals are not as receptive. COLASC is working with the California Digital Library (CDL) to streamline the process. R. Keller commented that the process is still confusing and would like clarification. Chair Amritharajah commented that system-wide has still not settled on a policy, but is favoring an opt-in method as opposed to UCSF’s opt-out method.

Analyst Update – S.Patel
There are still lingering questions regarding the recently passed UCSF Open Access Policy. The Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication is working with the Library to ensure the smoothest transition possible. She will report back at the next meeting on their progress and how CAF can contribute.

Report from the University Committee on Academic Freedom (UCAF)
Chair Amritharajah had these announcements from UCAF:

- The first meeting will be held later in November due to an objection raised by a faculty member regarding APM 210.1.D. APM 210 was revised to take into account a faculty member’s efforts towards increasing diversity. There is concern that the language, “research highlights disparities” will unduly influence research paths and potentially infringe on academic freedom. Chair Amritharajah encouraged the committee to email her with any thoughts they may have before the November 20 meeting. UCAAD and UCAP are working on alternative language which will likely be filtered through the system later this year. The primary goal will be to soften the language pertaining to research. Analyst Patel commented that the local Committee on Equal Opportunity is not in favor of softening this language; however perhaps dialogue between the two committees can result in a united response if and when system-wide asks our campus to respond.

- UC is making a push to delve into online courses. There is some debate about using commercially available online education services. The University is engaging in some trials. The
major complication is the lack of consensus over ownership of online content. The University has a standard contract and the controversial clause asserts that if a faculty member has not updated the content within a said number of years, the University can alter that content on your behalf. UCSD indicated concerns with this practice so UCAF was asked to comment. Furthering complicating the issue is that no one really knows much about online education. Chair Amritharajah also commented that many universities have robust online education programs (Sloan, Stanford) and must have policies in place regarding (1) Who owns the online content and (2) Who provides oversight and accreditation of that content.

Old Business
None.

New Business
None.

There being no further business, Chair Amritharajah adjourned the meeting at 4:49pm

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