Approval of Minutes from the January 23, 2013 Meeting
The minutes were approved.

Chair’s Report
Chair Rosenthal reported on the following items:
• Clinical Chairs Meeting: Three major items were discussed at the meeting. These included:
  1. APeX: The biggest problem with APeX right now is that the billings are up, but the collections are down. This is because the time allowed for collections has increased. Many departments are being impacted by this problem. The Medical Center is working to resolve this issue.
  2. UCSF Budget: The school is doing fine at the moment, but there is a lot of concern around the possible consequences of sequestration. There could be serious cuts in funding. UCSF is waiting to see what happens.
  3. ICD-10 Codes are coming to the University - ICD-10 (International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems) codes are used to track patient diagnoses. Every faculty member should have received a notice asking them to attend training sessions. It was discussed by the Chairs that the length of time for the training has yet to be determined. While the process will be complicated and time consuming, the good news is that the school is starting early and is working with UC Davis to establish best practices.

Reports from the Schools
School of Dentistry
The School of Dentistry will soon be implementing Axium, a new electronic dental record system similar to APeX. The School anticipates that there might be some issues with the program similar to those experienced with APeX.
School of Medicine
No Report

School of Nursing
Member Barbara Burgel reporting on the following items:

- John Plotts gave a “State of the UCSF Budget presentation” at the February Full Faculty meeting. The faculty appreciated this presentation and found it very informative.
- The School is also working on the development and implementation of two new degree programs. The first is the Masters of Science in Health Administration and Inter-professional Leadership (MS-HAIL) has been approved and is moving forward. This degree program is interdisciplinary and will be open to students from all of the health professions. The first class for the MS-HAIL program is expected in the Winter term of 2014. The second degree program is a new Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). The school is still in the early stages of developing a proposal. Once the proposal is developed, the faculty will vote whether to approve the development.

School of Pharmacy
No Report

APeX Update by Michael Blum
Michael Blum, Medical Director of Information Technology at UCSF, updated the Committee on the status and future of APeX, a new medical records system that was recently implemented at the Medical Center. Dr. Blum started by giving an overview of the challenges that the project has faced over the past two years. One of the greatest challenges the program has faced is the low number of staff available to fix problems. In addition, clinicians have complained about an increase in the amount of time they now spend to complete patient records. Nonetheless, even though the program has had problems, there have been a great number of successes: Overall communication is better; primary care providers know what specialists are doing; there is a better tracking of patient information; and medication administration has improved substantially.

Dr. Blum also addressed the issue of “optimization.” When APeX was first implemented, the plan was to roll out the system and then spend the next couple years optimizing it to meet the specific needs of the departments. This optimization plan has been slow-going because a lot of the programmers that were present during the implementation phase have since left UCSF. With the limited number of programmers available, most of the time is spent on maintaining the system, rather than optimizing it. To address this problem, an analysis was done to determine how many staff members would need to meet the needs of the campus, optimize the system and help work on special projects. The estimation was over 30 additional FTE would be necessary. With the tight budget the Medical Center is dealing with, this request is unpalatable to leadership. The Medical Center is now looking at alternatives to meet the needs of the departments.

Q: It has come to the attention of the Clinical Chairs that department revenue is down because of APeX. What is causing this problem?
A: Dr. Blum informed the committee that there have been problems with the timely submission of bills to payers. The team is working to resolve this problem and things are improving. Nevertheless, the loss of revenue cannot be completely attributed to billing issues; there has also been an overall decline in the amount of patient visits – with less work comes less revenue.

Q: Will the campus implement Beacon?
A: The campus has held off on the implementation of Beacon because of the lack of resources. This decision to hold off was wise because initially EPIC, the vendor of the system, had estimated the amount of resources and time needed to implement Beacon would be 2 FTE analysts and 6 months. Now, EPIC estimates that full implementation would require 12 FTE analysts and 2 years.

Q: How will the implementation of APeX influence the Mission Bay and Oakland Children’s Hospital?
A: There is a lot of activity going on at Mission Bay to develop the infrastructure. Oakland Children’s Hospital will move ahead separately from UCSF.
Old Business
None.

New Business
Committee members discussed issues they would like to address in the upcoming year. Members agreed upon the following issues:

- The Committee would like to establish regular updates from administration on the development of the Mission Bay Hospital. Elena Gates should be contacted.

- Accountability Care Organization (ACO) Changes – UCSF will soon be financially liable for a population of patients. Faculty would like to have more information on the proposed policy changes. David Morgan noted that Jay Harris would be the best person to present on this issue. The Council will ask Mr. Harris what the ACO will mean for UCSF, how UCSF is progressing towards the future reforms and what steps should UCSF take to best position itself when the changes take effect.

Chair Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 5:50 p.m.

Senate Staff:
Artemio Cardenas, Senate Analyst
Artemio.Cardenas@ucsf.edu; 415/ 476-4245