Sustainability Task Force
Thomas Newman, MD, MPH, Chair

MINUTES
Monday, December 3, 2012

PRESENT: Tom Newman (Chair), Arianne Teherani (Vice Chair), Gail Lee, Tim McCalmont, Susan Ryan, Ellen Weber (phone), Torsten Wittmann

ABSENT: Robert Gould, Steve Schroeder

GUESTS: Kendra Klein, Lucia Sayre, and Sapna Thottahil and Lucia Sayre, Associates, Health Care Without Harm, Healthy Food in Health Care Program Associates, SF Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility; Dan Henroid (phone), Director, Food Services Administration; Jack Henderson, Associate Director, Food Services Administration, UCSF Medical Center and Co-chair, UCSF Sustainability Food Workgroup

The Sustainability Task Force was called to order by Chair Newman on Monday, October 1, 2012 at 9:00am in room U-506. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes from October 1, 2012
The minutes of the October 1, 2012 meeting were approved as amended.

Chair's Report
Chair Newman welcomed Arianne Teherani as Vice Chair of the Committee. He provided an update on the Committee on Academic Personnel's request for clarification from the Sustainability Committee on parameters for evaluating sustainability efforts by faculty - he spoke with CAP chair Patrick Fox, who was supportive and suggested this issue be presented and discussed at the CAP retreat in the spring.

Chair Newman also provided an update on the status of the Task Force’s conversion to a standing Senate Committee. The Rules & Jurisdiction Committee reviewed the Task Force’s proposal and had a few additional questions.

Chair Newman advised of changes within the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability: each member will work with a work group; TN working on the food group.

Discussion of Sustainability Efforts - Food Services - Jack Henderson, Associate Director, Food Services Administration, UCSF Medical Center and Co-Chair of the UCSF Sustainable Food Workgroup (Attachment 1)
Per UCOP policy, the word “sustainable” can be used if one of fourteen criteria have been met. Since UCSF Food Services doesn’t pay property taxes, they are not allowed to compete with local businesses. This has led to a lower profile in the promotion of available sustainable food at campus. On the other hand, UC has trouble competing with local businesses, including food court vendors because of much higher hourly wages for employees.

Food Services has become smarter about purchases so as to cover the increased costs of sustainable ingredients. Café meals are now at 6 million (up from 5 million last year)
Chair Newman advised that the Task Force hopes to get Novation (holding the UC Medical Centers Group Purchasing Organization (GPO) contract) to change so that it purchases antibiotic-free meat.

Guest Sayre advised that they have had success by asking medical centers to work together to advocate for what they need.

A suggested approach focuses on the “balanced meals challenge”—attempting to reduce the amount of meat served overall, increasing the proportion of sustainably-raised meats. Sustainable meats are currently hard to procure in the volumes needed by medical centers and other large entities.

Guest Henderson advised US Food is the distributor from whom UCSF receives most of its shipments. Novation is the contractor. UCSF has 85 vendors. They negotiate volume prices with food producers. Produce is not on the contract. The highest fixed cost is for union labor. UCSF Food Services is unable to reduce labor costs as it is seen as a "service" for campus community. The only option is to close earlier in the evenings and on weekends.

Chair Newman asked if Food Services could purchase meat without antibiotics through putting pressure on the supplier and on UCSF. Guest Henroid advised that there isn’t sufficient supply, even if we had the budgetary resources to buy sustainable meat. Also, will the budget remain intact?

STF members proposed getting people to buy less meat. Guest Henroid advised that UCSF Food Services needs to meet customer needs and regulatory nutritional requirements for patients. They’ve done a lot to reduce the amount of meat, but can’t eliminate it entirely.

**Healthy Food in Health Care Campaign** – Kendra Klein and Sapna Thottathil, Lucia Sayre, Health Care without Harm’s Healthy Food in Health Care Program Associates, SF Bay Area Physicians for Social Responsibility

Guest Sayre advised that her group have been running the Healthy Food in Health Care Campaign for a number of years. UCSF is part of the campaign. There is a lot of momentum for this across the country. Kaiser just switched to US Food Service, who has increased the traceability of their products. We’re doing a regional produce sourcing project 3-4 hospitals who are committed to locally-grown produce. Working with CAFF (Community Alliance for/with Family Farmers).

Guest Thottathil advised that most hospitals working on this issue are not able to have 100% antibiotics-free meat. Fellow guest Sayre did advise that religious medical facilities, such as those of Seventh Day Adventists don’t serve meat at any of their facilities. However UCSF cannot institute such policies as a public institution. Very few institutions nationally serve no meat at all and UCSF cannot ignore what customers want. Highlighted vegetarian items are not popular, although they are offered every day. We need to address customer needs. Beef prices are going to increase due to this year’s drought, with vendors switching to pork and chicken products. Beef prices should drop after the first crop of corn next year.

Chair Newman suggested that the Task Force recommend UC phase out purchases of meat raised with nontherapeutic antibiotics. Can the campus do this jointly with Kaiser or Catholic Health Care West?

Senate Executive Director Alden advised working with Gail Lee, Jack Henderson, and Dan Henroid to craft a statement about best practices that could be used in many contexts. Included in those best practices should be comments on educational efforts. This can then be presented to faculty as a whole to gain further backing and support for sustainability efforts.

Guest Sayre advised that the statement needs to be big enough and meaningful enough to get the conversation going. For example, the science is clear on sugar-sweetened beverages, but pushback has
also been important. A recommendation to support the phase-out of antibiotic-free meat, including a timeframe, can be included in the statement—if backed up by the scientific impact of it all. A list of actionable items should be included in the statement.

Guest Sayre further recommended linking the statement from this committee to the Living Green Fair. Chair Newman will be speaking at medical grand rounds January 24 about climate change, and will be urging people to eat less meat then, but will mention the issue of antibiotics only briefly.

Guest Sayre and colleagues volunteered to draft a sample resolution for the TF. Chair Newman advised that such a statement should have references within it. Member Martin agreed to help with drafting; to be completed and circulated before the next TF next meeting.

**Old Business**

Follow-up of action items from prior meeting:

Following up with the Curriculum Ambassador Program to learn of its content and inclusion of sustainability within it.

Chair Newman will check in with Deb Grady on the CTSI program to save money in the Medical Center. He had submitted several ideas.

Chair Newman also reminded task force members of the medical student ambassadors who will review curriculum for opportunities for sustainability. Vice Chair Teherani will fill out paperwork to start this, with help from S Ryan.

Analyst Cleaver and Vice Chair Teherani will continue conversations with IPE Center for Excellence Director Reeves regarding the inclusion of sustainability in IPE curriculum. Analyst Cleaver has also contacted the Senate’s Committee on Educational Policy to further the discussion. They will be hearing from Director Reeves mid-January 2013.

Chair Newman further mentioned partnering with Gail Lee and the Senate’s Clinical Affairs Committee to make cost information on tests and treatments more readily available to clinicians.

Next meeting date, location and electronic options:

Action item: Mike Martin and Allison will work on videoconferencing for our next meeting.

**New Business**

Next steps involve further coordination and collaboration with other departments and groups already working on sustainability efforts campuswide.

**Adjournment**

Chair Newman adjourned the meeting at 11:00 am.

Senate Staff:
Heather Alden, Executive Director
heather.alden@ucsf.edu 415/476.8827