Primary Focus Points for the Year:

Systemwide:

- Climate Leadership Council
- Regents-level Task Force on Divestment from Fossil Fuels
- Resolution (UCSF) on Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Campus-specific:

- Chancellor’s Sustainability Competition Proposal
- Spring 2014 Health & Sustainability Summit
- Sustainable Food
- Sustainability in Education
- Sustainability Committee Needs for 2014-2015

Issues for Next Year (2014-2015)

- Sustainability in Education: Working with Each Schools
- Campus-specific and Systemwide Divestment from Fossil Fuels Initiative

2013-2014 Members

Arianne Teherani, PhD, Chair
Susan Ryan, PhD, MD, Vice Chair
Robert Gould, MD
Michael Martin, MD
Maria Raven, MD, MPH
Steven Schroeder, MD
Ellen Weber, MD, Representative to the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability (CACS)
Torsten Wittmann, PhD

Number of Meetings: 5  
Senate Analyst: Alison Cleaver
The Academic Senate Sustainability Task Force took up the following Systemwide issue this year:

**Climate Leadership Council**

Matt St. Clair provided an update on the Climate Leadership Council. The Council supports UC President Napolitano’s initiative for the UC System to be carbon neutral by 2025. David Seinberg, CEO, UCLA Medical Center serves on the Council. Mark Laret, CEO, UCSF Medical Center is the preferred UCSF representative. However, his schedule may not permit participation. The Council will meet three times a year and will focus on broad initiatives such as hunger, nutrition, and drought. This initiative applies to all campuses, hospitals and clinics owned and operated by UC System.

**Regents Level Task Force on Fossil Fuel Divestment**

Matt St. Clair, UCOP Sustainability Manager, advised that the UC Regents have appointed a new Task Force to examine Divestment from Fossil Fuels. This high-level task force is examining options by September 2014. UCOP has a new Chief Investment Officer. Two of his consultants are examining environmental impacts.

Committee members offered other options such as not pursuing straight divestment but developing an active strategy to slowly move toward companies that support green technology. Another option was shifting index fund investment so that no more than five percentage aggregate is invested in companies with heavy involvement in fossil fuels. A third option was creating a new fund to focus on new green investments.

**Resolution on the Divestment from Fossil Fuels (UCSF)**

The UCOP Task Force explored all socially responsibility investments, not just divestment from fossil fuels. Conversations with Ken Feer, UCFW and TFIR Analyst, UCOP, suggested that at present UCOP is not open to hearing more discussions on this topic. However, a suggestion was made to have UCSF Senate Office contact other campuses through their Academic Senate to create a uniform Systemwide Resolution on Divestment from Fossil Fuels. This combined resolution will likely have more weight than each campus providing separate ones.

Gail Lee, Sustainability manager, spoke to a finance contact at SFSU. This campus worked with their board to identify divestment issues. Discovering three funds that invested in fossil fuels, they immediately began divesting from those funds. They have a five year timeline to fully divest. While their endowment was small and contribution to the funds minimal, the biggest win is their process for identifying funds and eliminating participation in them. SFSU will share their process so that it may be replicated at other campuses.

The Divestment from Fossil Fuels Resolution was discussed at the March 2014 Coordinating Committee (CC). Overall, CC members supported the idea but were concerned how such
divestment changes could impact retirement benefits. CC members had also proposed that “fossil fuels” be defined, possibly narrowing the focus to coal, for example.

Upon discussion, committee members opted to alter language in their resolution such that it targeted any direct UC investment in fossil fuels. This excludes investments made through index or mutual funds. Committee members also amended the revised resolution to reduce the investment to five percent of combined assets at most can include fossil fuel holdings. Committee members will continue to promote the idea and work with other Campuses’ Senate offices to develop and promote this idea. (Appendix 2)

Divisional Business

This year, the Academic Senate Committee on Sustainability took up the following issues related to the San Francisco Division:

Chancellor’s Sustainability Competition Proposal

Chair Teherani presented a draft for the Open Proposal Call for Health & Sustainability Projects at UCSF. Members discussed whether or not clinical should be part of the proposal. If yes, then items of interest would include “impact of the health care system on sustainability and health in general – i.e., overuse of plastics in disposable items.” This could follow on the CTSI program of “Caring Wisely”.

Committee members wanted the call to be open to residents as well as students and faculty. Residents have small projects with very limited time to accomplish them, so this might be a good idea for them to pursue. Staff can submit project proposals – but those would be judged by the Sustainability Office and by Gail Lee.

It was noted that the proposal would be open for comment for two weeks. Materials required for submission would also be shortened.

Spring 2014 Health and Sustainability Summit

G. Lee solicited the Committee’s input regarding the summit slated for May 29, 2014. The Committee discussed the summit throughout the year. Comments included:

- If the summit were to also include outside invitees, there may be a better turnout. G. Lee agreed, but reminded the group that UCSF 2025 is mostly focused on faculty and curriculum so the turnout would need to be largely UCSF.
- Resident and fellows should be included, though according to G. Lee, it is difficult to generate interest within those groups.
- A full-day summit was thought to be undesirable.
- The Academic Senate is one of three groups hosting the event. The other two are the Sustainability Steering Committee and the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Sustainability.
- The agenda’s focus needs to be further narrowed. The title “What Would it Take for UCSF to be a National Leader in Health & Sustainability?” was suggested.
- The summit will tie in with both the 150th Anniversary as well as President Napolitano’s commitment to sustainability.
• It was suggested that participants breakout into small groups which would reconvene to discuss and move ideas forward.
• An invitation has been made to UC President Napolitano to introduce presenter Jeffrey Thompson.

Committee members participated actively in the Summit, both in main session and in smaller breakout sessions. Key projects elected by Summit participants as most important for UCSF to address/incorporate will be taken on by Committee members during the upcoming 2014-2015 academic year.

A SurveyMonkey.com survey will be sent out by the Office of Sustainability, UCSF to all attendees and participants to allow them to re-vote on the top recommendations. At present, key broad goals that emerged from the Summit include:

• UCSF integrates environment/environmental impact into their mission for advocating health worldwide and to prevent disease;
• Advocating policies and programs that effect health and climate change;
• For Sustainability matters, UCSF will set goals higher and measure “more clearly” (measuring the data to prove we are the best in the area)

**Sustainable Food**

*Sustainable Food Conference*

About eighty people from across the country attended this conference held in fall 2013. Day two of the conference focused on food procurement and delivery. Most in attendance were food producers, distributors, and food service people.

Committee members discussed what UCSF’s role would be moving forward—either within the UC System or statewide. Ideas discussed included:

• Invite Food Services Individuals to the next meeting to discuss development of a beyond-UCSF campaign
• S. Thottahil suggested developing or hosting (through PSR) a webinar on UCSF’s Resolution on Sustainable Food. Food Services should be involved. The webinar could be hosted by the Pew Foundation and could include the various policies associated with the sustainable food movement (providing historical context to those newly listening).
• Analyst Cleaver will route the resolution to other Senates within the UC System to inquire about interest and to support them developing their own initiative.
  o UCSF would partner with UCLA and other UCs with medical institutions.
  o UCSF can also take the resolution to other institutions beyond the UC System (Stanford, John Hopkins, Harvard).
• Sustainable food issues could be linked with UCSF Infectious Diseases Department to highlight the effects of climate change on health which compound issues of non-therapeutic antibiotics being in the food supply served to such patients.
Projects can also presented at the Wellness Expo in January 2014.

At spring 2014 meetings, Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) provided updates on the status of procurement issues. Cost and availability remain the two stumbling blocks. The Committee expressed interest in inviting Dan Henroid or Jack Henderson to a future meeting to discuss current status of hospital efforts and UCSF vendor efforts around sustainability food purchases.

**Outreach Plan to other universities:**
- PSR is hosting a three-part webinar series – April-June 2014—focusing on marine science and policy regarding antibiotic-free meat/poultry; what medical professionals can do around developing such an antibiotic-free program; and finally, procurement. It was recommended that UCSF Senate and Committee on Sustainability deliver an invitation to faculty to attend the webinar.

**UCSF Resolution (Appendix 1)**
The Committee discussed the drafted communication and offered the following comments:

- What is the larger goal of this communication? What is our audience?
- This communication and the resolution aren’t only about UCSF. It should be a directive for the entire UC student, staff, and faculty population to make a personal commitment to not buy these products.
- M. Raven expressed concern that people might assume that committing to the resolution (promoting antibiotic-free meat/poultry) will result in increased costs. If there is data to counter-balance this perception, the communication about the resolution should state it.
- The communication should direct readers to [http://sustainability.ucsf.edu/](http://sustainability.ucsf.edu/) and the working group materials.
- A marketing campaign could include a poster series.

**Sustainability in Education**

Chair Teherani and Vice Chair Ryan updated the committee on work accomplished by resident Latifat Apitira during the summer. Apitira examined the SOM curriculum for any pre-existing sustainability content and for opportunities to insert sustainability curriculum.

Using Latifat Apira’s efforts as a starting point, the Committee discussed incorporating sustainability content in the curriculum of all four schools and planned to present the results to the Committee on Educational Policy (Academic Senate). Ideas discussed included:

- Barbara Burgel in the School of Nursing (SON) has introduced sustainability content in the curriculum.
- Preliminary discussion with SON revealed that their Environmental Health program was disbanded due to lack of interest; currently both UCD and UCB have the strongest programs.
- Chair Teherani and Vice Chair Ryan have continued the work that resident Latifat Apatira accomplished over the summer, so as to take SOM curriculum to the next step. Interviewing course directors is the next step.
• CS member Torsten Wittmann is leading a sustainability in education discussion at SOD. There is a March 1 SOD Retreat on “Curriculum in 2025.” A short Sustainability presentation can focus on: "What we've done, what we plan to do, and what we hope to achieve." Have objectives/goals be broad and include more than just Green Dentistry.
• Committee members discussed development of an online course (Corsera) and/or join courses with the other professional schools at UCSF on “Sustainability in Health” that is a requirement for all students. It was suggested that the course be developed through the Learning Management System.
• Members questioned whether the curriculum should address the larger issues of the impact on global health and reproductive health.

Sustainability Committee Membership Needs for 2014-2015

At the April 7, 2014 meeting, Committee on Committee Liaison Ruth Greenblatt addressed the committee about its membership needs for the next academic year. She recommended that the committee focus on either the research endeavor or patient care.

COC Liaison Greenblatt wondered if student representatives from the various schools Chairs of the respective Sustainability Steering Committee and the Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Sustainability should be added as Ex Officio members. Additional potential Ex Officio members include representatives from CEP (Committee on Educational Policy) and COCOI (Committee on Courses of Instruction) and from the Interdisciplinary Education Group.

Going Forward

Ongoing issues under review or actions that the Committee will continue into 2014-2015.

• Sustainability in Education: Working with Each Schools
• Campus-specific and Systemwide Divestment from Fossil Fuels Initiative

Appendices

Appendix 1: Resolution on Clean Meat
Appendix 2: Proposed Resolution on Divestment from Fossil Fuels

Senate Staff:
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Communication from the Sustainability Task Force
Tom Newman, MD, Chair

Statement on the Non-therapeutic Use of Antibiotics in Agriculture
June 2013

Whereas:

- Eighty percent of antibiotics sold in the United States are used for animal agriculture, primarily for non-therapeutic purposes;¹²
- Antibiotic resistance is increasing across the country;³
- There is a growing body of research that links antibiotic resistance to the overuse of antibiotics in animal agriculture, presenting a serious risk to human health;⁴,⁵
- There is a strong consensus among independent experts, including the U.S. Institute of Medicine/National Academy of Science and the World Health Organization, that antibiotic use in agriculture contributes to growing antibiotic resistance. More than 300 organizations, including the American Medical Association, American Public Health Association, and Health Care Without Harm, have advocated ending the non-therapeutic use of medically important antibiotics as feed additives;⁶,⁷,⁸
- Non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in livestock was banned in Sweden in 1980s, Denmark in the 1990s, and in the rest European Union in 2006, but multiple attempts to ban this practice in the US over the last 30 years have been thwarted by the factory farming and pharmaceutical industries;⁹
- Several hospitals and school systems across the country are already committing to procuring meat raised without non-therapeutic antibiotics;¹⁰,¹¹

Therefore, the UCSF Academic Senate:

- Calls on UCSF food services to phase out of all procurement of meat produced with the use of non-therapeutic antibiotics.
- Encourages the entire UC system, including all of the UC medical and academic foodservice facilities, to develop a timeline for a similar phase out.
- Encourages UCSF students, faculty and staff to become familiar with the significant risks imposed by the non-therapeutic use of antibiotics in agriculture and to help educate the public and decision makers regarding the importance of reserving antibiotics for therapeutic use.

⁴ For a complete annotated bibliography, see http://www.keepantibioticsworking.com/new/KAWfiles/64_2_107403.pdf (93 references). One example is 2012 study that found a link between bacteria in chickens and antibiotic-resistant urinary tract infections in human populations: Bergeron, Catherine Racicot; Prussing, Catharine; Boerlin, Patrick; et al. (2012), “Chicken as Reservoir for Extraintestinal Pathogenic Escherichia coli in Humans, Canada,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s Emerging Infectious Diseases, Vol. 18, No. 3, pp. 415-421, http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/eid/article/18/3/11-1099_article.htm.


A Resolution
To Support of Divestment from Fossil Fuel Companies

1. Whereas: The mission of UCSF is "Advancing Health Worldwide"; and

2. Whereas: The current global effects of climate change include at least 150,000 annual deaths according to the World Health Organization\(^1\); and

3. Whereas: Since 2009, scientists have affirmed that the negative effects of climate change are likely to be felt at a much more rapid pace than previously expected\(^2\); and

4. Whereas: Combustion of known reserves of the 200 largest fossil fuel companies would lead to release of CO\(_2\) exceeding the amount likely to cause catastrophic climate change by a factor of 5;\(^3\) and

5. Whereas: The University of California currently has investments in the fossil fuels industry, whose value is linked to their reserves, and whose profits arise from the sale and combustion of these fuels; and

6. Whereas: The University of California has committed itself to “responsible stewardship of resources and to demonstrating leadership in sustainable business practices” and to having a “net zero impact on the Earth’s climate”\(^4\); and

7. Whereas: By divesting from Sudan, South Africa, and tobacco, the University of California has endorsed the view that in holding investments in an industry, the institution is partially accountable for the impacts of the decisions and actions of said industry;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the San Francisco Division of the University of California Academic Senate call upon the Regents of the University of California, in its commitment to leadership in sustainability, to take the following actions regarding the General Endowment Pool:

1 Instruct asset managers to stop any new investment in fossil fuel companies; and

2 Take appropriate steps to ensure that, within 5 years, none of its directly held or commingled assets include holdings in fossil fuel public equities and corporate bonds as found on the Carbon Tracker list\(^5\); and

3 Release quarterly updates, both detailing progress made towards full divestment and providing information on the holdings of the endowment pool and of index funds within the General Endowment Pool.

\(^1\) http://www.who.int/heli/risks/climate/climatechange/en/
\(^2\) “Climate change 'likely to be more severe than some models predict'”, 8 Nov 2012. http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2012/nov/08/climate-change-severe-models