



Communication from the Academic Senate **Elena Fuentes-Afflick, MD, Chair**

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During March and April of 2011, the Academic Senate Committee on Faculty Welfare reviewed and discussed the disparities in health quality and access to health care facing LGBT couples and their families. Both anecdotal and peer-reviewed research in this area has shown that prohibited access to legal marriage for same-sex couples has a detrimental effect on the healthy welfare of LGBT individuals and families as well as their equitable access to health care services. In support of the well-being of our fellow LGBT UCSF faculty, staff, students and their families, on May 16, 2011 the Coordinating Committee of the San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate adopted the following statement:

“The San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate of the University of California recognizes the significant disparity in both access to health care and a positive health environment for its LGBT faculty, staff, students and their families. Evidence has shown that marriage-inequality is a significant factor in this health care disparity and the Academic Senate expresses its support for marriage equality for its LGBT faculty, staff, students and their families.”

Marriage equality for LGBT families of UCSF, in fact LGBT families everywhere, is not just a civil rights issue, but specifically also a health sciences issue. As leaders in advancing health worldwide, the San Francisco Division of the Academic Senate is proud to support our LGBT families and their well being. Furthermore, the San Francisco Division is happy to make this announcement in time for June and National LGBT Pride month.

For reliable research on same-sex marriage equality and its impact on personal health and access to health care, the Academic Senate can suggest research and resources from the [American Psychological Association](#), the [American Medical Association](#), the [Gay and Lesbian Medical Association](#) and UCSF's Chancellor's Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Center of Excellence and UCSF's [Center for LGBT Health & Equity](#).