



Committee on Academic Freedom
Mohana Amirtharajah, MD, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT

2011-2012

Primary Focus Points for the Year:

- Open Access and ways for the Committee to inform the greater campus community about their publishing rights and the benefits of an open access policy.
- Instituting procedures by which faculty may grieve Academic Freedom issues to the Committee
- Review of changes to APM 210.1.D regarding diversity and the impact/bias it may have on research.

Issue(s) for Next Year (2012-2013)

- Continued partnership with the Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication to promote open access initiatives
- Continued refinement of the Academic Freedom Grievance Process

2011-2012 Members

Mohana Amirtharajah, MD, Chair, Orthopaedic Surgery (M)

Thuan Le, DDS, Vice Chair, Orofacial Sciences (D)

Catherine (Kit) Chesla, RN, DNS, FAAN, Family Health Care Nursing (N)

Robin Corelli, PharmD, Clinical Pharmacy (P)

Mark Hawk, RN, MSN, ACNP, Physiological Nursing (Adj. Rep)

Roberta Keller, MD, Pediatrics

Number of Meetings: 5

Senate Analyst: Shilpa Patel

<http://senate.ucsf.edu/0-committee/a-acf.html>

Systemwide Business

The Academic Senate Committee on Academic Freedom and took up the following Systemwide issue this year:

APM 210 was recently revised to take into account a faculty member's efforts towards increasing diversity. There was concern that the language, "research highlights disparities" will unduly influence research paths and potentially infringe on academic freedom. The Committee took no formal action, but will be monitoring the situation in the following academic year.

Divisional Business

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

UCSF Open Access Policy

On April 20, 2012, Richard Schneider, Chair, Committee on Library and Scholarly Communication presented a UCSF Open Access policy proposal to CAF members and responded to their questions related to the proposed policy. He encouraged them to vote on the policy at the Division Meeting on May 21, 2012. CAF responded with a letter of support ([Appendix 1](#)).

Governance Task Force

On April 20, 2012 Division Chair and Governance Task Force Chair Robert Newcomer updated CAF members and sought their input on the work of the [Governance Task Force](#) as they have followed and responded to the [Future of UCSF Working Group's](#) inquiries about governance structures at other institutions.

CAF members had these comments:

- The lack of specific information on this new board makes it difficult to provide real input. The goals, responsibilities, make-up, and power of the new board need to be outlined in a more specific manner. Would the board be managing or advisory?
- Academic freedom needs to be preserved in any change in governance.
- Membership in the larger UC system permits some protection of academic freedom by allowing grievances or concerns to be elevated outside of the campus.
- UCSF's relationship to the UC system allows faculty to collaborate and participate in lines of investigation with other members of the UC system, broadening the potential scope of research.
- If the new board consists of major donors to UCSF and they have significant influence over the governance of UCSF, their input could apply undo or inappropriate pressure on faculty members and could potentially infringe on their academic freedom.

Appendix

This Annual Report is posted online and accessible via the [CAF Web page](#) on the Academic Senate Web site.

[Appendix 1](#): CAF to the Committee on Library & Scholarly Communication Regarding Support for the UCSF Open Access Policy (May 11, 2012)

Senate Staff:
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