

Committee on Academic Freedom
Michelle Arkin, PhD, Chair

ANNUAL REPORT
2015-2016

Primary Focus Points for the Year:

- Restrictions on Use of UC Resources & Facilities for Political Activities
- Statement on Intolerance
- Religious Freedom Issues Related to Awarding Endowed Chairs

2015-2016 Members

Michelle Arkin, PhD, Chair, (P)
Eric Widera, Vice Chair, (M)
Ruth Malone, RN, PhD, FAAN, (N)
Karen Ordovas, MD, MAS, (M)
Mark Ryder, DMD, (D)
George Sawaya, MD, (M)

Number of Meetings: 4

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:

Statement on Intolerance

In response to an increase in anti-Semitic activities on UC Campuses, the Regents proposed a Statement on Intolerance. This statement stated no tolerance for “anti-Semitism, anti-Zionism, and other forms of discrimination.” UCAF was concerned with the statement in that the reference to anti-Zionism limited political speech where a particular state was concerned. The proposed statement was subsequently rejected by the Regents in September. A work group was formed to draft a new statement. UCSF will continue to contribute to this endeavor.

Policy on Endowed Chairs and Donor Involvement in Faculty Searches

At UC Irvine, there has been an issue regarding an endowed chair position. The funding body of this position is religious in nature and has allegedly been imposing those beliefs on the selection process. UCSF CAF investigated the matter on this campus and concluded that our local policies would likely not allow this type of influence. (Appendix 1 and 2)

Divisional Business

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

UCSF Sponsorship of On-Site Events

Ruth Greenblatt, Chair of the UCSF Academic Senate visited CAF in October to discuss recent activities on campus marketed as symposiums or lectures using UCSF branding. Some of these activities were sponsored by lobbying organizations. Concerns included:

- What is the process and how does a faculty member decide how and whether to move forward with such a collaboration?
- Are there standards of appropriateness?
- Is our branding being used off-campus without our consent? If so, how do we police such misappropriation?

CAF reviewed the most current policy, drafted in 1974, and made three recommendations: (1) draft updates to the [1970 policy](#) to incorporate new technologies and (2) create a boilerplate statement asserting that UCSF does not endorse the activities of the outside organization and (3) require outside organizations to disclose the mission of their organization on any literature bearing UCSF branding. (Appendix 3)

Chancellor's Fund

Since CAF opted out of the funding, the Committee spent some time entertaining big ideas for the next cycle. CAF focused their ideas on three major areas: (1) driving change, (2) equalizing the playing field, and (3) building community. Ideas included:

- CORO or other leadership training with funding for time release
- Media training for faculty
- Partner with other grants including RAP or educational funds
- Revamping the Senate website
- Development
- Mission-based productivity data collection – map the playing field, facilitate equalization
- Funding for childcare and eldercare

Going Forward

Ongoing issues under review or actions which the Committee on Academic Freedom will continue into 2016-20167:

- Chancellors Fund
- Affiliation Task Force
- Strategies to Leverage CAF Efforts with Other Senate Committees

Appendix

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

[Appendix 1:](#) [School of Pharmacy Policy to Evaluate Endowments](#)

[Appendix 2:](#) [School of Medicine Process for Appointment to Endowed Chair](#)

[Appendix 3:](#) [Restrictions on the Use of University Resources and Facilities for Political Activities, 1970](#)

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