



As the Division chair, I am delighted to present the first Academic Senate newsletter under my leadership. It is an honor to represent the amazingly talented UCSF faculty. I hope that together we will achieve important advances for the faculty, and the University as a whole, over the next two years.

In a foreword to a history of the Academic Senate, Clark Kerr wrote “The two greatest gifts to the University of California have been the institutional autonomy given to its Board of Regents in the Constitution of 1878 and the unprecedented grant of authority the board assigned to the Academic Senate in 1920. These two gifts constitute the institutional foundation for the growth in distinction of the University of California.” The Senate shares governance of University affairs with the administration, and as such, has the ability to effect positive changes for its members. I look forward to working closely with the Administration, which is committed to involving the Senate in all aspects of University life.

As an initial foray into developing collaborative solutions with the administration, I have changed the name of the newsletter. Like many of you, I greatly enjoy Dan Lowenstein’s Espresso newsletters. However, they tend to leave me a little wanting – for dessert! In the spirit of restraint, we will only offer dessert on a quarterly basis.

The dessert recommendation for this first newsletter comes from [Mission Pie](#), a wonderful bakery at the southeast corner of 25th and Mission in the City. A locally owned business in close proximity to La Taqueria (need I say more), I can attest that its pies are indeed special (my expertise comes from having a mother who made pies for every Friday night dinner, pies known to be some of the best in Toronto). My favorite of Mission Pie’s current offerings is [Pear-Ginger](#), which comes in a mini-size, so you can still feel somewhat honorable while indulging.

So, while you’re having your espresso and dessert, do check out the newsletter articles on important issues on which we are working these days, and perhaps some stories from around the world that I think you may find as fascinating as I do:

Newsletter Articles:

- [UCSF Space Update: Issues and Initiatives](#)
- [The Role of the Academic Senate in School Curricular Improvement](#)
- [Retiree Health Benefits: What does it mean for you?](#)

Stories from around the world:

Space/Housing:

- This interesting article supports the notion that, although [workspace changes are a necessary element](#) to our lives, one size does not fit all. I was particularly struck by the statement “Research done by Craig Knight, a British organizational psychologist, concluded that “empowered offices” — in which workers can choose their conditions — can increase productivity on cognitive tasks by 25 percent or more.”
- How about [partnering with Sidewalk Labs/Alphabet](#) to create Sidewalk UCSF, to address some of our massive housing needs innovatively? (Way to go, Toronto!)

For Dog Lovers:

Who would have thought that a genetic defect in humans (I see these patients regularly in my pediatric cardiology practice) may be the reason that your [dog \(and not a wolf\)](#) is your best friend; or, more to the point, that you are your dog’s best friend.

Super Cool!

Or super hot. The collision of two neutron stars was first detected by LIGO on August 17. This [animation](#) of the event is fascinating. The [first article](#) on it was authored by 4,000 scientists! Now that is truly a multi-center project.

Lastly, I want to say that the Senate exists to represent and support you, the faculty, in all aspects of your work life. I would love to hear from you about any topic that concerns you, whether you have ideas for positive change, want support, or just want to vent. Please go to the [Senate Response Page](#). The Senate is interested in all of your thoughts, and problems, and we are committed to supporting you, to make your experience at UCSF, and UCSF itself, better.

Sincerely,
David Teitel, MD, Chair
Academic Senate (2017-2019)

Slice of Pie is a publication of the UCSF Academic Senate Office. It will be sent out quarterly. To be included on future newsletter mailing lists, contact Senate Communications Specialist Kathryn Sill at kathryn.sill@ucsf.edu. This email was sent by: the Academic Senate Office, 500 Parnassus Avenue, MUE-231, San Francisco CA 94143-0764.

