UCSF Academic Senate

http://senate.ucsf.edu

April 23, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

As many of you may be aware, UCSF is undergoing an Institutional accreditation by the WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) Senior College and University Commission (WSCUC). The process involves a comprehensive review of all institutional functions. Institutional accrediting organizations do not accredit individual programs; UCSF's health professions degree programs are separately accredited by their respective professional accrediting bodies. The WSCUC re-accreditation occurs every ten years.

Voluntary, non-governmental, institutional accreditation, as practiced by WSCUC and other accrediting commissions, is a unique characteristic of American education. Accreditation is granted by the US Department of Education at the completion of a peer review process, and assures the educational community, the general public, and other organizations that an accredited institution has met high standards of quality and effectiveness. No institution in the United States is required to seek accreditation. However, the vast majority do so because of the recognized benefits, including access to federal financial aid. In 2019-20, UCSF received more than $60M to support its students.

In October 2020, WSCUC will send a peer review team (chaired by Mark Schlissel, President of the University of Michigan) to conduct the reaccreditation site visit at UCSF. We will be informed of the results in February 2021.

The Senate is interested in producing a strong institutional report with faculty feedback. Towards that end, please review the enclosed draft institutional report, and submit all comments to the Academic Senate's Executive Director, Todd Giedt, at todd.giedt@ucsf.edu **by Friday, May 8**. If you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your help with this.

Sincerely,

S. Majumdar

Sharmila Majumdar, PhD
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate, 2019-21
Margaret Hart Surbeck Distinguished Professor in Advanced Imaging and Vice Chair for Research in the Department of Radiology and Biomedical Imaging