Message from the Chair

Robert Newcomer, PhD

Dear Colleagues,

As the 2011-13 Chair of the UCSF Academic Senate, I look forward to working with all of you on the challenges we expect in the coming year. Some of the known challenges include campus budget adjustments due to reductions in State funding, additional expenses arising from the increasing costs of payments into the retirement system, and ongoing capital improvements such as seismic upgrades to campus buildings. Campus and UC Systemwide efforts to address these issues prompted seeking operational efficiencies and new sources of revenue. Constrained funding has also raised concerns about how to improve transparency, equity, flexibility, and adaptability for each campus.

My expectation is that the Academic Senate will continue to partner with UCSF leadership to find workable solutions for these issues. We will also collaborate to refine initiatives, such as the new pre-award grant administration structure, and enhancements to campus information technology, such as iMedRIS, as they are implemented. The Chancellor and her leadership team have demonstrated creative problem solving abilities. Their work highlights a willingness to innovate and a desire for timely change. To most effectively participate in the changes on campus and in the UC System, the Academic Senate will continue to provide timely engagement and efficient responses to requests for participation. I will endeavor to help us achieve both of these objectives.

For more information about the Senate, I encourage you to speak with colleagues who are active in the Academic Senate, visit our website http://senate.ucsf.edu, or send me a message at academic.senate@ucsf.edu.

Sincerely,

Robert Newcomer, PhD
Chair, UCSF Academic Senate, 2011-2013

Important Dates and Times

October 14: Course Action deadline for Winter ’12
October 24: Faculty Research Lecture in Clinical Science, Eric J. Small MD, 3:30p, Cole Hall
November 7: Coordinating Committee, S-30, 2p-4p
November 9: Distinction in Teaching Award Nominations due, 4p
November 17: Distinction in Mentoring Award Nominations due, 4p
Focus ON: Shilpa Patel

November will mark Shilpa’s eighth year with the UCSF Academic Senate. The work of the Senate evoked positive memories of her time working with the Associate Vice Chancellor of Information Technology at UC Davis (where she matriculated with a BS in Biological Sciences). After being admitted to the California State Bar in 2004, she continued her service to the Senate and found ways to incorporate her science and legal backgrounds into her daily life—making her career with UCSF that much more rewarding. Shilpa currently staffs Academic Freedom, Equal Opportunity, Library and Scholarly Communication, Privilege and Tenure, Rules & Jurisdiction, and the School of Dentistry Faculty Council.

Shilpa is a native of the Bay Area and a resident of San Francisco. When she is not embarking on new adventures in the City, Shilpa can be found teaching cooking classes, spending time with her family, playing Scrabble, and contemplating the next stamp in her passport. She can be reached at shilpa.patel@ucsf.edu

The Incoming Class

The Academic Senate Welcomes Incoming Chairs to the 2011-2012 Academic Year

Abbey Alkon
Educational Policy

Mohana Amirtharajah
Academic Freedom

Linda Chafetz
Privilege and Tenure

Jyu-Lin Chen
Nursing Faculty Council

Patrick Finley
Rules and Jurisdiction

Paul Garcia
Academic Personnel

Mary Gray
Academic Planning and Budget

Stefan Habelitz
Dentistry Faculty Council

Roland Henry
Committee on Committees

Anthony Hunt
Courses of Instruction

Grayson Marshall
Faculty Welfare

Maxwell Meng
Clinical Affairs

Judith Moskowitz
Research

Bob Nissenson
Medicine Faculty Council

Norman Oppenheim
Pharmacy Faculty Council

Eliseo Perez-Stable
Equal Opportunity

Robert Raffai
Graduate Council

THE SENATE PAGE is published quarterly by the UCSF Academic Senate to inform faculty about the activities of the Senate. Your comments are welcome to shilpa.patel@ucsf.edu. Special thanks to Wilson Hardcastle for lectureship poster design.