



2025 Recipients of the Academic Council Chairs Award for Mid-Career Leadership

At its April 30, 2025 meeting, the Academic Council voted unanimously to honor Professor Steven W. Hetts of UC San Francisco and Professor Andrea Kasko of UC Los Angeles with the 2025 Academic Council Chairs Award for Mid-Career Leadership. This award was created in 2019 to honor individuals whose records demonstrate an exceptional ability to work effectively across University constituents and who show promise for further service to the Senate. Nominations for the award are made through the Divisions to UCOC. UCOC, in turn, submits two nominees to the Academic Council, which may select one or both of the nominees.

Steven W. Hetts (UC San Francisco)



Steven Hetts, MD is Co-Chief of the Neuro Endovascular Surgery Service Line at UCSF and Chief of Interventional Neuroradiology at the UCSF Mission Bay Hospitals, where he provides endovascular surgical therapy for children and adults with stroke, cerebrovascular disease and tumors. Dr. Hetts is also Co-Director of the UCSF Hereditary Hemorrhagic Telangiectasia Center of Excellence where he cares for patients with vascular malformations of the brain and other organs. As Co-Director of the Interventional Radiology Research Laboratory, Dr. Hetts develops novel medical devices and techniques. An active member of the Academic Senate, Dr. Hetts served as faculty representative to the UC Regents Health Services Committee from

2018-2020 and is Chair of the UCSF Division of the Academic Senate from 2023-2025. He also serves on the Academic Advisory Board of the UC National Center for Free Speech and Public Engagement. Dr. Hetts earned an MD from Harvard Medical School and an AB from Harvard College. He completed medical internship at Stanford and diagnostic radiology residency, diagnostic neuroradiology fellowship, and interventional neuroradiology fellowship at UCSF, where he joined the faculty in 2008.

Andrea M. Kasko (UC Los Angeles)



Andrea M. Kasko is a Professor of Bioengineering at UCLA and the Immediate Past Chair of the UCLA division of the Academic Senate. Her research focuses on the synthesis and characterization of novel polymeric materials for use in biomedical, drug delivery and tissue engineering applications, and biomimetic materials, including glycomimetics, antimicrobial peptides, and their conjugates. Her lab is also producing high performance and biodegradable polymeric materials derived from lignin. Beyond her scholarship, Professor Kasko has an extensive record of service at UCLA and at the systemwide level, including several notable leadership positions. Professor Kasko began serving the UCLA division of the Academic Senate in 2016 as a member of Graduate Council, eventually serving as Vice Chair and then Chair. She was elected Vice Chair of the UCLA division of the Academic Senate in 2022-2023, and served as Chair of the Division in 2023-2024. At the Systemwide level, Prof. Kasko served as a member, Vice Chair and then Chair of the Coordinating Committee on Graduate Affairs. She co-chaired the Academic Planning Committee (APC) subcommittee on the Review of Master's degree programs, and was a member of the APC workgroup on the future of doctoral programs at UC. She has also served as a reviewer for the UC Hispanic Serving Institution Doctoral Diversity Initiative and the UC Laboratory Fees Research Program In-Residence Graduate Fellowship Awards.