Re: UC Care rollout and further development

Dear President Napolitano:

Thank you for engaging with the Academic Council at its October meeting.

The Academic Senate’s systemwide University Committee on Faculty Welfare (UCFW) is charged with advising on matters related to the economic welfare of the faculty, including salaries and health and pension benefits. Fifteen years ago, UCFW commissioned a task force of experts on health care policy and delivery to advise it on multiple facets of UC’s health benefits. As you requested, I am enclosing brief descriptions of its current members.

As you know, UC Care is a new “self-funded” PPO medical insurance plan for UC employees intended to leverage the resources of the UC medical centers to reduce escalating health insurance costs for both UC and its employees. At Council’s October 23 meeting, UCFW’s chair informed Council that the committee and its Health Care Task Force were not provided with timely or complete information as UC Care was being developed. Although the HCTF was asked for its input on the list of “UC Select” providers in mid-July, it did not receive a full briefing on the details of the plan until August 14. Even that briefing was incomplete, as details continued to change through last week. The committee is now receiving a steady stream of reports from colleagues on many campuses who are dismayed because the replacement options are not comparable to their current program. Moreover, the new offering is not equitable across the system, as employees in some campus locations are suddenly losing in-plan access to their long-standing provider systems. In addition, faculty who regularly travel for extended periods, those whose families face complex or chronic health challenges, and out-of-state emeriti and retirees are seeing significant degradation in the quality of insurance they are offered and anticipate significant increases in costs, if they seek the same quality of health care previously provided within the discontinued Anthem plans.

It is clear that the University will need to monitor results and engage in continuous quality improvement of UC Care for all employees for the next enrollment cycle. Council urges you to ensure that the UCFW Health Care Task Force is fully informed and closely engaged in that effort. Shared governance requires much closer collaboration than HCTF experienced last year. This body includes some of the nation’s
leading experts on health care delivery and can render excellent advice on costs, benefits, and plan features.

Please contact me if you have any questions about how to engage UCFW and its Health Care Task Force.

Sincerely,

Bill Jacob
Chair
Academic Council

Cc: Academic Council
Martha Winnacker, Senate Executive Director
Bill Parker, Chair, HCTF
Peter Taylor, CFO
Nathan Brostrom, EVP – Business Operations
Dwaine Duckett, Vice President, Human Resources
Health Care Task Force (HCTF) Mini-Biographies

William Parker, Chair
Professor Emeritus of Physics and former Vice Chancellor for Research, Dean of Graduate Studies, and Associate Executive Vice Chancellor, UC Irvine. Professor Parker, former chair of the University Committee on Faculty Welfare, has been intimately involved in the current health care issues facing UC. Professor Parker’s deep knowledge of UC administration, blended with his pragmatic approach to problem solving, are invaluable assets for the HCTF.

Andrew Bindman, Member-at-Large
Andy Bindman, M.D., is Professor of Medicine, Health Policy, Epidemiology & Biostatistics, at the University of California, San Francisco. He is Director of the University of California Medicaid Research Institute and Director of UCSF’s Primary Care Research Fellowship. From 1995-2010 he served as the Chief of the Division of General Internal Medicine at San Francisco General Hospital where he helped the Division to become a nationally recognized leader in developing physicians and scholars caring for and improving the care for some of the nation’s most vulnerable patients. He has practiced and taught at San Francisco General Hospital for over 20 years. Dr. Bindman has published more than 110 peer-reviewed scientific articles evaluating the impact of health policies on low-income patients’ access to and quality of care. During 2009-2010, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Fellow working with the US House of Representatives Energy and Commerce Committee chaired by Congressman Henry Waxman. In that role, Dr. Bindman actively participated in the policy process that resulted in federal health reform through the passage of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. See http://healthpolicy.ucsf.edu/people/andrew-bindman-md#sthash.BVwTzVCu.dpuf.

Thomas Cesario, Member-at-Large
Professor of Medicine, UC Irvine and former Dean, School of Medicine, UC Irvine. Professor Cesario is a highly respected physician who brings to HCTF his extensive knowledge of health care administration. He is well known for his knowledge of business and organizational strategic planning for health systems, hospitals and medical groups, as well as how these integrate and collaborate in health care provision. As a former medical school dean, Professor Cesario has first-hand knowledge of how UC health care enterprises function and interact with UC more broadly.

JoelDimsdale, Member-at-Large
Joel Dimsdale is Professor Emeritus of Psychiatry at UC San Diego, where he is also co-leader of the Cancer Symptom Control Research Program at UCSD’s Moores Comprehensive Cancer Center. He the former chair and long-serving member of the University Committee on Faculty Welfare and former chair of the San Diego Division of the Academic Senate. His clinical subspecialty is consultation psychiatry. He is an active investigator, career awardee of the American Heart Association, and past-president of the Academy of Behavioral Medicine Research, the American Psychosomatic Society, and the Society of Behavioral Medicine. He is on numerous editorial boards, is editor-in-chief emeritus of Psychosomatic Medicine, and is a previous guest editor of Circulation. He chairs the Sleep Research Society’s Committee on Research. He has been a consultant to the President’s Commission on Mental Health, the Institute of Medicine, and is a reviewer for NIH.

Patricia A. Ganz, Member-at-Large
Professor Ganz is Professor of Health Services, UCLA School of Public Health and a medical oncologist. She received her M.D. from the University of California at Los Angeles and completed her training in internal medicine and hematology/oncology at UCLA Medical Center, where she also served as Chief Resident in Medicine. She has been a member of the faculty of the UCLA School of Medicine
since 1978 and the UCLA School of Public Health since 1992. Since 1993 she has been the Director of
the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control Research at the Jonsson Comprehensive Cancer Center.
Her awards include an American Cancer Society Clinical Research Professorship (1999) for "Enhancing
Patient Outcomes across the Cancer Control Continuum" and the Susan G. Komen Foundation Professor
of Survivorship Award (1999 and 2000). Dr. Ganz was elected to the Institute of Medicine in 2007. She
served on the National Cancer Institute Board of Scientific Advisors from 2002-2007 and on the
American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Board of Directors from 2003-2006. She currently
serves as the ASCO representative to the National Cancer Policy Forum of the Institute of Medicine. Dr.
Ganz is a pioneer in the assessment of quality of life in cancer patients and survivors and established the
High Risk Program 20 years ago, currently serving as a senior consultant to this Program. Professor
Ganz is well-versed in issues concerning health care practices and the UC Medical Centers. As a current
and long-time member of HCTF, she brings the committee a practical knowledge of health care delivery
and how it is funded.

Harold Luft, Member-at-Large

Professor Luft is the Caldwell B. Esselstyn Professor Emeritus of Health Policy and Health Economics
at the Philip R. Lee Institute for Health Policy Studies at the University of California, San Francisco, where he was Institute director from 1993-2007. In 2008, he became Director of the Palo Alto Medical
Foundation Research Institute. His research and teaching have covered medical care utilization, health maintenance organizations, hospital market competition, quality and outcomes of hospital care, risk
assessment and risk adjustment, and health care reform. He has been co-director or associate director for four postdoctoral training programs sponsored by UCSF and/or UC Berkeley and continues to mentor fellows at PAMFRI. He is a member of the Institute of Medicine and served six years on the IOM Council. He was a member of and chaired the National Advisory Council of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research (now the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality). He served on the board of Academy Health for 10 years and was co-editor of the journal Health Services Research. He has authored or co-authored and edited a number of books and published numerous articles in scientific journals. He received his A.B., M.A., and Ph.D. in economics specializing in health sector economics and public finance from Harvard University. See  http://healthpolicy.ucsf.edu/people/harold-s-luft-phd#sthash.OHN1NG1J.dpuf.

Carol Mangione, Member-at-Large

Professor Mangione is a Professor of Medicine and Public Health, UCLA, where she holds the Barbara A. Levey MD & Gerald S. Levey MD Endowed Chair. Dr. Mangione received her B.S. from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, her M.D. degree from the University of California, San Francisco, and her MSPH from the Harvard School of Public Health, Boston. She is a member of the American Society of Clinical Investigation and Association of American Physicians (ASCI/AAP) and recipient of the 2007 Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) Mid-Career Mentorship Award. She is currently a member of the Board of Governors for the Pardee RAND Graduate School. Dr. Mangione is the principal investigator for the Translational Research Centers for Diabetes Within Managed-Care Settings (TRIAD) Legacy Study, funded by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK). Her work has focused on the relationship between organization of care, cost sharing, control of cardiovascular risk factors and process outcomes such as adherence to medications. Dr. Mangione is principal investigator of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) Virtual Lab for California Project. She is also a co-investigator of the California Healthcare Foundation (CHCF) funded project entitled Acting to Reduce Variation in Utilization: Developing Interventions. She is a nationally recognized expert on quality of health care provision in managed care settings, and has worked extensively on issues of quality of care provision for minorities and the elderly.
Mark Peterson, Member-at-Large
Professor Peterson is a Professor of Public Policy and Political Science, UCLA. He received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Michigan. Professor Peterson's scholarship focuses on interactions among the Presidency, Congress, and interest groups, evaluating implications for policymaking with special attention to national health care policy and Medicare reform. Professor Peterson has published widely on health care policy and health care reform. He also has advised State and federal lawmakers on health care legislation. He is a founding team member of the UCLA-based multidisciplinary Blue Sky Health Initiative to transform the U.S. health and health care system, which advised Congress on the inclusion of disease prevention and health promotion strategies in the Affordable Care Act. Previously, as an American Political Science Association Congressional Fellow, he served as a Legislative Assistant for Health Policy in the Office of Senator Tom Daschle. From 2000-2003 he was on the Study Panel on Medicare and Markets organized by the National Academy of Social Insurance. From 1993 to 2002, Professor Peterson was the editor of the Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, a leading bimonthly scholarly journal in the field.

Richard Scheffler, Member-at-Large
Professor Scheffler is a Distinguished Professor of Health Economics and Public Policy at the University of California, Berkeley and holds the Chair in Healthcare Markets & Consumer Welfare endowed by the California Office of the Attorney General. He is Director of The Nicholas C. Petris Center on Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare. At Berkeley, he serves as Co-Director of the Scholars in Health Policy Research Program funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; he is founding Co-Director of the National Institutes of Mental Health (NIMH) pre- and post-doctoral training programs. Professor Scheffler co-directs the NIH-Fogarty Mental Health & Policy Research Training for Czech Post Doctoral Scholars program; the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) pre- and postdoctoral training program; and the Edmund S. Muskie Fellowship Program. He served as President and Program Chair of the International Health Economics Association 4th World Congress in San Francisco, June 2003. His research focuses on healthcare markets, health insurance, the health work force, mental health economics, and international health system reforms in Western and Eastern Europe. Professor Scheffler is the current recipient of the American Public Health Association’s Carl Taube Award for distinguished contributions to the field of mental health services research. He is a recipient of a senior scientist award from NIMH for work on mental health parity, the economics of the public mental health system in California, managed care in mental health, and the mental health work force. Professor Scheffler has been a Fulbright Scholar, a Rockefeller Scholar and a Scholar in Residence at the Institute of Medicine–National Academy of Sciences. He has published over a hundred papers and edited and written six books.

Richard Watts, Member-at-Large
Professor Watts is a Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, UC Santa Barbara. Professor Watts has served on the HCTF and UCFW for many years and in a number of Senate leadership roles on the Santa Barbara campus. In 2008 he chaired the Chancellor’s Advisory Committee on Student Housing, which recommended housing rates. Dr. Watts received his Ph.D. from the University of Colorado and came to UCSB after postdoctoral research at Washington State. His research interests include spectroscopic characterization and photochemistry of electronic excited states of metal complexes. Professor Watts brings a consumer oriented perspective to the HCTF, honed by his long experience on the task force and the University Committee on Faculty Welfare. Professor Watts has consistently provided invaluable input to the deliberations of the committee, especially as a counter-balance to perspectives of members working within the health-care system.