



Campus Update – Office of the President March 2006

This winter UCOPA hosted two noontime educational programs, sustained sponsorship of five employee interest groups, created stronger partnerships with other staff organizations, and provided staff input into the space management of the new UCOP building proposed for completion in mid-2008.

In December, at the Franklin location, we invited staff member Roy McCandless to discuss his extraordinary accomplishment of walking completely around the San Francisco Bay. Dr. McCandless discussed the Bay Area trail, the politics affecting the trail, and the events which motivated him to begin this trek.

In January, at Franklin and Kaiser, we invited Jon Giacomi, Department Administrator for Facilities Administration and Head of UCOP Space Management, to discuss UCOP's consolidation plan. Mr. Giacomi indicated that UC will be leasing a new building which is currently under construction at 1100 Broadway in downtown Oakland (immediately adjacent to the Franklin Building) and will consolidate 5 Oakland satellite offices (including the Kaiser building) into this new structure. Topics of interest included parking and transportation, design and working environment, cubicle and office size, building design, and Green status of the building. UCOPA took notes on the questions asked at each presentation and Mr. Giacomi is creating a frequently asked questions sheet which will be available via web at <http://www.ucop.edu/facil/avp/ucopofcconsol.html>.

In January, UCOPA proactively brought forth issues of concern in regards to the new building. As a result, UCOPA was asked to consult on the design and space layout of Breast Feeding rooms in the new building. In addition, thanks to the recent tour of the UC Riverside Staff Memorial by UCOPA's CUCSA delegates at the September 2005 CUCSA meeting, UCOPA sought to ensure a similar dedicated space of reverence be created at UCOP for recognizing UCOP deceased staff. A memorial subcommittee was created to spearhead this project and was able to gain Facilities Administration support and funding for a Memorial to deceased staff in the Franklin Building's 5th floor roof garden.

In early February, UCOPA undertook a campaign aimed at raising interest in the Staff Advisor position. We partnered with other local staff groups (Black Staff and Faculty Organization, Latino Staff Association, and UCOP Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Intersex association, and Toastmasters) to encourage members of these groups to discuss the Staff Advisor position with their members and colleagues. This approach was intended to supplement the mass e-mails and fliers created by UCOP HR/Benefits.

UCOPA's subcommittees are wrapping up their 2005-2006 projects. Most notably, our new website is expected to be online in May 2006. Additionally, UCOPA is nearly finished updating our by-laws and will hold elections in early May to ensure that we have adequate time to notify CUCSA of the new UCOPA Junior Delegate.

Interest Group Updates:

In response to the results of our Summer 2004 web-based staff interest questionnaire, UCOPA sponsored the creation of several interest groups. These interest groups are lead by staff volunteers for the enjoyment and participation of all UCOP staff. For continuing groups, UCOPA provides on-going support, by publicizing them in UCOP-wide periodic "interest group" announcements and having Human Resources include UCOPA information pamphlets with the new employee orientation information.

Conversational Spanish

This group was started by UCOPA, and is now co-sponsored by the Latino Staff Association (LaSA). The group gathers over brown bag lunches, conducting informal meetings in Spanish rather than offering formal instruction. Staff members improve speaking skills in a friendly atmosphere and build working relationships. Fluent and/or Spanish speakers maintain conversational skills, while informally helping others to learn. This group is for all levels from beginner to native speaker, featuring cultural information in addition to the informal discussions.

Kaiser Book Club

The following four books were selected for the February - May time period: *Pride and Prejudice* - by Jane Austen, *Things Fall Apart* - by Chinua Achebe, *The Known World* - by Edward P. Jones, and *On Beauty* – by Zadie Smith.

Golf Group

Members of The UCOP Golf Group meet on weekends at designated locations and times to play golf in a collegial atmosphere. This group allows open communication and interaction in a non-work environment, with membership spanning all levels of golf expertise, and all levels of staff from the President down. Due to the size of the group, the members benefit by playing at discounted rates.

Kaiser Knitters and Crocheters Group

Experienced and beginning knitters and crocheters work on their individual projects during weekly meetings where they have an opportunity to network, advance their skills, and socialize. Beginners are coached in a safe environment by those already accomplished in the art.

Franklin Crafts Group

Group members meet weekly and participant in all kinds of craft projects, including knitting, crocheting, and scrapbooks in an informal and friendly environment.

Yoga Group

Due to facility limitations and liability issues, UCOPA was not able to directly sponsor a Yoga Group in either the Franklin Building or the Kaiser Center. However, UCOPA provided a representative that researched and coordinated interest in a weekly noon-time Yoga class offered at a discounted fee and held close to the Franklin Building. UCOPA advertised the contact information for the Yoga class that currently is enjoyed by approximately twenty OP staff members.

Any questions regarding this report or other issues at UCOP can be sent to Kathy Mendonca, Senior Delegate (Kathy.Mendonca@ucop.edu) or Andrew Clark, Junior Delegate (Andrew.Clark@ucop.edu)