



Campus Update March 2009

UCSF Women's Appointment Training Workshop Offered at UCSF

UCSF offered a workshop on February 5, 2009 geared toward women to learn how to apply for and get appointed to a board or commission. The workshop is free and open to the public.

The workshop guided participants through the appointments process by raising awareness of board and commission openings, helping to assess strengths through a personal inventory worksheet, guiding women through the application process and helping to learn about the state appointments process.

The speakers were **Fiona Ma**, Member of the California State Assembly, 12th District, **John Cruz**, Appointments Secretary, Office of the Governor, **Sophie Maxwell**, Supervisor, San Francisco Board of Supervisors, District 10, and **Rachel Michelin**, Executive Director/CEO California Women Lead and Gubernatorial Appointee.

This workshop was sponsored by California Women Lead, UCSF Center for Gender Equity, UCSF Community and Governmental Relations and the California Commission on the Status of Women.

UCSF Staff Council Executive Board members Invited to WASC Accreditation Visit

On February 19, 2009 the WASC accreditation committee members arrived at UCSF to do their site visit, as well as to meet with various UCSF constituencies to gather information on what UCSF does well and what we need to continue to work on. Five members of the UCSF Staff Council attended and were called upon to offer their opinions on the UCSF environment, in regards to students, staff and faculty.

UCSF Transportation Benefits Increase

In 2002, UCSF became the first UC campus to allow all employees, within limits, to authorize taking money out of their paychecks, before taxes are deducted, to pay for transportation in the next month. This lowers the paycheck a bit, thereby lowering the employee's payroll taxes. It also lowers the University's payroll taxes slightly. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, which was signed into law recently by President Barack Obama, includes an increase of the maximum monthly election limit for transportation benefits from \$120 to \$230, the same as that for parking. This increase is available beginning March 1 and will continue through Dec. 31, 2010.

Employees can deduct only the costs of getting to and from work, and should keep their transit receipts and Fast Passes as proof of commuting to any UCSF campus. To date, 1,610 people use the pretax transit program. Transportation Services would like to get that figure up to 2,000 this year. These pretax deductions reduced a small portion of UCSF's payroll taxes (about 7 cents for each dollar of pretax deduction), resulting in UCSF's avoiding around \$117,000 in annual payroll taxes in the past 12 months. Additionally, pretax participants also save by not being taxed on the amount they deduct. UCSF employees saved \$420,000 in 2008.

Campus update: contact: Kathy Jackson, jacksonkl@vision.ucsf.edu