**The Culture of Academic Travel**

and

**Recommendations to the Academic Senate**

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Academic Senate Committee on Sustainability Meeting

Thursday, January 20, 2022

Purpose of the discussion:

To inform the committee of the ongoing Academic Travel project, and to enable the Senate to transform the culture of travel and sustainability at UCSF

Agenda:

1. Introductions and project history (5 min)
2. What we learned in faculty focus groups (5 min)
3. Recommendations for ***next steps***, based on what we learned and feedback from Dan Lowenstein (Vice-chancellor) and David Teitel (former Chair of the Academic Senate)

(5 min)

1. Committee discussion and planning (15 min)

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Key points:

What we learned distilled into 4 pillars:

\*Provide clear guidance regarding the necessity of travel for career advancement.

\*Enable faculty to become stewards of their carbon footprints

\*Advance solutions to excessive travel that can be adopted broadly by academic organizations.

\*Invest in community climate resiliency projects

**Note:** Drs. Lowenstein and Teitel highly recommend that the AS Committee on Sustainability, in conjunction with students, propose a major Senate initiative this year to address planetary health. Changing the culture of academic travel could be a key theme. The chancellor’s office will support it, and Dr. Teitel is eager to share tips for creating activities during a theme year.

How this might work:

**Submit a proposal to Stephen Cheung** (Chair of the Senate) to establish a theme year for Planetary Health. Provide a potential roadmap for activities.

*Potential roadmap for activities (examples):*

-Create a senate-sponsored faculty survey to inform action by the end of the year (for example, survey may focus on “virtual communications best practices” and UCSF can support faculty)

-Academic travel: build on Stephen Ettinger’s work by promoting specific travel related incentives

-Conduct a series of well-done presentations on how faculty and trainees can thrive in the virtual world (incentives for best ideas and demos), minimize their carbon footprints, etc.