Resolution of THE SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE
June 8, 2017
Seema Gandhi, MD, Chair

Resolution on Not Serving Red Meat at Institutionally Sponsored Functions

Whereas:

- UCSF aspires to advance health worldwide and to be on the cutting-edge of health care discoveries, health care delivery, and health care reforms.

- Global climate change is an enormous health threat, both in the United States and worldwide. 1,2

- Observational epidemiologic studies have found that greater red meat consumption is associated with increases in cardiovascular, cancer, and all-cause mortality. 3-6

- Meat production (particularly that from ruminant animals) is a major contributor to climate change, due to land use changes and the production of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases, most notably methane and nitrous oxide. 7-9

- Meat production is associated with a variety of other negative environmental consequences including excessive water use, land and water pollution from manure runoff, and excessive antibiotic use. 7,9,10

- Consequences of global climate change fall disproportionately on poor people and poor countries, those least responsible for the excess greenhouse gases causing it. 11

- As the impact of red meat consumption on health and the environment has become clear, continuing to serve red meat at university-sponsored functions makes a statement that is inconsistent with UCSF's mission and values.

Therefore, be it hereby resolved that the University of California, San Francisco Academic Senate Committee on Sustainability:

- Recommends that all departments at UCSF commit to not serving red meat at department-sponsored functions such as department seminars, receptions and dinners.

- Recommends that UCSF as an entire institution commit to not serving red meat at university-sponsored functions.
REFERENCES


