September 20, 2004

DEANS, DIRECTORS, DEPARTMENT CHAIRS, AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS

I am pleased to announce a new Computer Ergonomics Matching Funds Pilot Program that will help fund ergonomic modifications to computer workstations used by faculty and staff. This pilot program begins October 1 and will remain in effect until the $100,000 of allocated funding is depleted. I encourage your department to consider applying for this cost savings program to help prevent and minimize computer-related injuries.

Computer-related repetitive motion injuries remain the single most common work-related injury on the Berkeley campus. These injuries are costly to individual faculty and staff and to the University community. Many of these injuries can be prevented with ergonomic changes to the workstation and improved work practices.

To be eligible for these matching funds (up to $500 per employee), computer users are required to attend the Computer Health Matters ergonomics awareness workshop and to have their computer workstations evaluated by their department computer workstation evaluator. Equipment must be selected from a pre-approved product list. The funds may not be used for workstation furniture for new construction, renovation or relocation projects. To learn more about the matching funds program and how to apply, please see www.uhs.berkeley.edu/facstaff/ergonomics/matchingfunds.

This program is coordinated by Ergonomics@Work, the campus ergonomics program for faculty and staff. Oversight is provided by the campus Ergonomics Task Force. In addition, Ergonomics@Work coordinates the network of campus Department Computer Workstation Evaluators, the Ergonomics Showroom, post-injury workstation evaluations, ergonomic training and additional ergonomic services for non-computer work environments.

Thank you in advance for your efforts to help the campus community reduce work-related injuries and to further our goal of creating a safe and healthy work environment.

Sincerely,

Steve Lustig
Acting Vice Chancellor--Business
Administrative Services