

1 Academic Senate  
2 Meeting of January 22, 2014  
3 University Club, Scriptorium Room  
4

5 **DRAFT MINUTES**  
6

7 **Present:** M. Apostolos, D. Blaine, B. Brown, L. Carver, G. Clark, P. Conti, A. Crigler, S. Curran, C. Daley, D.  
8 Davies, A. Dowd, B. Edwards, C. Gomer, H. Greenwald J. Kagan, R. Labaree, P. Liebig, T. Lyon, O. Mayer, S.  
9 Mosley, A. Ouellette, L. Palinkas, D. Richter, P. Riley, P. Rosenbloom, D. Ruddell, M. Safonov (alternate for J.  
10 Kunc), M. Schroeder, J. Steele, E. Webb

11 **Absent:** J. Barnes, R. Ben-Ari, P. Cannon, E. Collins, R. Davila, Y. DeClerck, L. Feters, M. Marx, K. Murphy, S.  
12 Palmer, R. Paulson, C. Russell, S. Sanudo-Wilhelmy, J. Silvester, N. Staudt, A. Trope, R. Weisberg, M. Weinstein

13 **Guests:** A. Bregand, J. Brown, A. Camcam, E. Garrett, K. Howell, P. Lamar, M. Levine, V. Soni, C. Zachary  
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15 President Chuck Gomer called the meeting to order at 2:03pm:  
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17 **1. Dialogue with Provost Elizabeth Garrett**

18 USC has acquired the Pacific Asia Museum in Pasadena. For 2014, all faculty with a USC  
19 faculty ID can attend free. I encourage you to go explore it and send some of your students as  
20 well.  
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22 We have received a transformative gift from Dr. Gary Michaelson, a doctor in Los Angeles who  
23 had no connection with USC until he met with Michael Quick, Steve Kay and Scott Frasier. He  
24 listened to the work that USC is doing at the convergence of life sciences, engineering and  
25 medical sciences. He has given us a 50 million dollar naming gift for the Center for Convergent  
26 Biosciences. The building will be near Irani Hall and should be up in the next few years.  
27

28 Ainsley Carry has been working with students on making sure we do a good job about the  
29 dangers of irresponsible activities, especially engaging in drugs and alcohol. We have had an  
30 increase in alcohol transports. This may be because students are being encouraged to report it  
31 more. It is largely a freshman phenomenon. We have revised our social event policy; it is  
32 available online at SCampus. Where alcohol is not provided, social events are permitted Sun-  
33 Thurs until midnight and until 2am on Friday and Saturday. Events where alcohol is served,  
34 events are permitted on Thurs until midnight, Friday and Saturday until 2am. It is prohibited to  
35 distribute alcohol to minors, alcohol must not be main focus, and non-alcoholic beverages and  
36 food must be served. No social events will be allowed on stop days or during final exams.  
37

38 We will be having another Thursday night football game in the fall on November 13. This is  
39 going to be the new normal and is driven by a television contract with the conference. The real  
40 problem we have experienced is with drinking. This year the Thursday evening game will be the  
41 beginning of Trojan Family Weekend, which should calm things down a bit. Unfortunately we  
42 have a game on Yom Kippur. This was not scheduled by us but by the conference.  
43

44 **Q:** Do you feel there is an uptick in alcohol consumption during the past years?  
45

46 **A:** I'm sure there is very good data on that, but what we are seeing is an increase in problems  
47 with students who are mixing alcohol with prescription drugs.  
48

49 In 2010 USC took an official position opposed to academic boycotts or other responses to  
50 political policies of Israel as an academy. We believe it is contrary to academic freedom. What

51 is important in the end with respect to an institution of higher education is engagement with  
52 academics in Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and throughout the world. We do not condone or  
53 approve of academic boycotts of Israel. We were incorrectly listed as an institutional member of  
54 the American Studies Association. We have no idea how we got on this list and have been asked  
55 to be taken off it.

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## 57 **2. Approval of December Academic Senate Meeting minutes**

58 The December minutes were approved with the following vote:

59 Approve: 30

60 Oppose: 0

61 Abstain: 0

62

## 63 **3. Update on Child Development Centers – Awilda Bregand, Executive Director, Benefits 64 Administration**

65 We outsourced our childcare centers two years ago and it has been a difficult transition. It looks  
66 like things are going much better and parents are on board.

67

68 Paula Lamar, Director UPC Child Development Center:

69 USC Trojan band has come over to UPC center three times already. We are very much a part of  
70 the USC community and we are here to support each of your departments. We are working with  
71 parents to see ways in which we can improve; recently we had a survey with 54 enrolled children  
72 and received 36 parent respondents. Our satisfaction rate has improved:

73

74 HSC – 9 out of 10 in overall satisfaction rate (compared to 8.4 in Sp2013)

75 UPS – 7.8 out of 10 “ “ (compared to 7.2 in Sp2013)

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77 The enrichment programs being offered include music and movement, gymnastics, Spanish,  
78 technology. Students are participating in many of these programs, some as part of their  
79 curriculum and some as volunteers. Four UPS teachers have been promoted to new Lead  
80 Teacher positions and we have added an Administrative Assistant position as well. We have  
81 health and safety coordinators at both centers.

82

83 Q: What is the compensation level of these teachers?

84 A: \$14,000 to 22,000.

85

86 The food menu at UPC has improved. Canned fruit has been removed, adding more salad and  
87 fruits. HSC has 100% whole grain breads and healthier snacks.

88

89 Q: One of the problems is the long waiting list. When we are recruiting faculty this can be a  
90 problem. What is the actual wait time?

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92 A: One dilemma is that families with siblings are given priority, so the amount of time can  
93 fluctuate. The typical wait time is 1.5-2 years.

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## 95 **4. Update of the USC Emeriti Center – Janette Brown, Executive Center, Emeriti Center**

96 The Emeriti Center provides resources from retired faculty and staff and its mission is supporting  
97 pre-retirees and retirees in living healthy and purposeful lives and providing opportunities in  
98 service and learning. Is part of the Provost's Office and is used as 'honor for service' – this  
99 includes all faculty and staff at no cost.

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The Emeriti Center Gold card provides library services, discounts, complimentary parking on campus. Work with benefits conducting transitions to retirement sessions. We emphasize the value that our retirees bring to the Trojan family. In 2005 President Nikias agreed to increase the budget and now it is one of the top programs in the country, with the most comprehensive benefits, privileges and programs.

We change programs every year and give 200-400 presentations in communities via our speakers bureau. The Retired Faculty Association (age 65 and up) was established in 1969 to represent the interests of USC retired faculty and foster collegiality. Without this the Emeriti Center would not exist.

USC won the Alfred P Sloan Award for Faculty Career Flexibility - \$100,000. We believe that our retired faculty is one of the best resources that USC has.

We are looking for colleagues who are willing to sit down to lunch to collect faculty perspectives about doing a better job at transitioning to 'encore life'. We want to know what people can be passionate about post full-time work.

Q: There is a fee for RFA. Is there a fee for the Emeriti Center?

A: No it is free. The RFA is \$20 per year

### **5. Faculty Council Update – Mark Schroeder, President, Dornsife Faculty Council**

This is the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our bylaws. Dornsife has 700 full time faculty who are represented on the faculty council. The bylaws specify 21 representatives, 22 if the president carries over to a second year. There are three officers: president, vice president and secretary. We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every month and have a number of standing committees. This year the number has been reduced from 6 to 4.

Some of our biggest obstacles are getting faculty to run and the recruitment of officers. We are grappling with the need for increased NTT representation. We spend too much time thinking about policies without thinking of what we actually need to do. There is nothing specific that our council does except be a voice to the dean and work with the dean in communicating it to the broader university. This is liberating but sometimes it is alienating. The themes for this year are finding ways to make the most of our faculty, create avenues for more input, better faculty mentoring at all career stages. We gave a workshop on promotional practices for NTT faculty.

We meet with the dean at least once per semester; the faculty council president met individually with all vice deans.

Dornsife has a very diverse range of NTT faculty in research, teaching, physical education, etc. The number of NTT members on the faculty council is not proportionate. The writing program is all NTT and comprises 60-80 faculty. This year we have only 3 NTT representatives out of 21 and last year it was 2. We have found that NTT are the most interested in participating. In the past there was a sense that participation in the faculty council was not always very rewarding. This is part of the problem in recruiting new members. This year the relationship is healthier with a better sense of how much we are accomplishing.

Q: Is the faculty council involved in curriculum?

149 A: Last year there were separate graduate and undergraduate curriculum committees. This year  
150 they have been combined.

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152 **6. Update on Mellon Mentoring Awards Nominations – Varun Soni, Dean of Religious Life**

153 We are very grateful for your support; mentoring is a critical part of the work of the faculty. We  
154 received a 6-year grant from Mellon in 2006 and have given almost 250 awards since 2007. This  
155 has helped raise the profile of the university. Mellon is very pleased with what we are doing and  
156 consider us to be the model of how it should be done.

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158 The deadline for this year's awards is 1/31/14. Please submit your applications. The website is  
159 mentor.usc.edu

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161 The grant expired last year but we have received an extension. It will end at the end of this year.  
162 We are working with the Provost to keep this going and she is very supportive of the idea.

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164 We are working on another initiative that will launch in the fall, related to wellness. It is called  
165 Mindful USC. Mindfulness has moved out of the spiritual realm and into the workplace. This  
166 will have three components: 1) research 2) pedagogical through the CET and 3) practice based  
167 where people can learn about meditation.

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169 Several other universities (including UCLA) are developing similar programs.

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171 **7. Update on the 2014 Provost/Senate Retreat – Charles Gomer, President of the Faculty**

172 If you know of individuals who should be invited please let us know.

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174 **8. Announcements**

175 Please RSVP to the Retreat ASAP – we need to know who needs rooms.

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177 **9. New Business**

178 Q: Are we going to be doing any motions this year in the Senate?

179 A: I have asked a couple of the committees to examine their timetables – in particular the  
180 Handbook and Faculty Evaluation committees.

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182 The meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.

183

184 Respectfully submitted,

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186

187 Lucinda Carver, D.M.A.

188 Secretary General of the Academic Senate