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Academic Senate
Meeting of November 20, 2013
University Club, Scriptorium Room

MINUTES

Present: M. Apostolos, R. Ben-Ari , D. Blaine, B. Brown, L. Carver, E. Collins, D. Davies, R. Davila, A. Dowd, B. Edwards, L. Fetters, C. Gomer, H. Greenwald, J. Kagan, J. Kunc, R. Labaree, P. Liebig, M. Madden, M. Marx, O. Mayer, G. Miller, S. Mosley, K. Murphy, J. Nyquist, L. Palinkas, S. Palmer, V. Regnier, D. Richter, P. Rosenbloom, M. Schroeder , J. Silvester, A. Trope,

Absent: J. Barnes, P. Cannon, G. Clark, P. Conti, A. Crigler, S. Curran, Y. DeClerck, A. Ouellette, R. Paulson, P. Riley, D. Ruddell, S. Sanudo-Wilhelmy, N. Staudt, E. Webb, R. Weisberg,

Guests: G. Bickers, M. Levine, M. Quick, M. Safonov, C. Zachary

President Chuck Gomer called the meeting to order at 2:03pm:

A tribute was paid to Dennis Dougherty, former USC Senior Vice President for Finance and CFO who passed away recently; a moment of silence was held.

1. Dialogue with Vice Provost Michael Quick

We want to work together in partnership with Academic Affairs and residential faculty to inject more academic rigor into the residence halls. One of the most important things is the student/faculty ratio – we want it to be as low as possible – a measure of our ‘inefficiency’.

Arts and humanities are a major theme at USC. We have 5,000 undergrads that have a major or a minor in one of the arts schools. We also just completed a merger with the Pacific Asia Museum.

Gene Bickers and Steve Lamy will be heading up the third committee on the new GE curriculum. The first committee made suggestions on the structure, number of courses and the notion of moving beyond Dornsife to include the arts and quantitative skills. The second committee was charged with figuring out the description of the new categories. The third committee will roll up its sleeves and figure out how to make it work. We want a full roll out in F2015. They will determine what classes are offered in each category, how many seats and how to administer an arts experience to 18,000 undergraduates.

The provost has mandated that she would like to have her operation undergo periodic reviews, to be as lean and mean as possible, and find savings to put back into the academic mission of the university. As a result she is reviewing each subsection of her office. Last year Student Affairs was examined and found a way to reduce the budget by 6.5%. This year the Libraries are being reviewed and faculty could have a big role to play. What is the strategic direction of the Libraries?

This review process is part of a larger plan. Each school has been asked to do a review and push down their administrative costs, specifically with an eye to whether we are administratively

46 heavy. Each dean has been asked to take a certain percentage from administrative costs and put it
47 towards the academic mission of the university.

48
49 After consultation with a wide variety of students, the university made a decision to go to online
50 evaluations. We will be looking for feedback from faculty on how it went in order to make
51 adjustments.

52
53 The post-doc program in humanities is in its 3rd year – we have had over 1000 applications for 6
54 positions. Of this number there is a pool of circa 300 exceptionally qualified people.

55
56 Q: Has this been a stepping stone for them to be hired as professors?

57 A: Yes. At least 3 turned down TT jobs to take our post-doc. The logic is that they can get a
58 better TT position with this experience. They were worried about their tenure clocks – this
59 allows them to get their first book out. Half who have come have left after their first year
60 because they got TT jobs; one in history was hired by USC. The word of mouth is very good –
61 their experiences at USC have been spectacular.

62
63 Q: What about diversity tag being dropped in GE?

64 A: Diversity will go to two places: 1) traditional roots – where we come from and 2) global
65 diversity.

66
67 **2. A Dialogue with Gene Bickers, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs**
68 Vice Provost Bickers passed out a handout listing a number of programs administered centrally
69 plus a few in schools with large undergraduate programs. Students are encouraged to submit
70 applications for the Provost's Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. This year we had a
71 record number of applications. The program awards \$430,000 to fund 90-100 students. Students
72 can be supported for consecutive terms; faculty letters of recommendation remain on file.
73 Funding for this program has increased by a factor of 6 since 2005; it is a priority for the provost
74 and president.

75
76 **3. Approval of Minutes**

77 The September minutes were approved with a vote of 22 approve, 0 oppose.

78
79 The October minutes were approved with two corrections by a vote of 25 approve, 0 oppose.

80
81 **4. Call for Nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Service Award – Julie Nyquist**
82 This is an award for a career of service in governance (not just through the Senate) at the local or
83 university level. Only a faculty member can put in a nomination. Staff or an administrator can
84 send in a backup letter. We ask for a bullet list of university service, but we also want a great
85 story- an explanation of the reason why this service is important. Typically 2-3 awards are given
86 out each year. Due date: March 3, 2014

87
88 **5. Faculty Council Update: School of Social Work – Larry Palinkas**

89 We currently have 3,000 students, 2,000 of which are in online MSW degree programs. We
90 have 300 faculty, 100 full-time, 200 adjunct. Our faculty council contains 9 members – 4 TT, 1
91 TT junior faculty, 2 clinical faculty from the research field, 2 clinical faculty from the teaching

92 track. They are elected to 2 year terms, with a separate election for the chair. If the chair is TT,
93 then the vice chair is NTT. To date we have only had one NTT faculty serve as chair. The main
94 issue we face is the tremendous amount of growth due to the online programs. A large group of
95 faculty decided to look at the mission as a school and develop a strategic vision that would lead
96 to a re-organization of the school, possibly into departments or divisions. The faculty council is
97 helping to guide the new structure and is also revision our APR process. We are looking for
98 ways the APR can be a valuable tool for the progress of junior faculty.
99

100 **6. Nominating Committee Election Results**

101 The following members were elected:

102 Vicki Marx

103 Daniel Richter

104 Nick Stoubis

105 Alison Troupe

106 They will be joining these Executive Board Members: Ginger Clark, Charles Gomer, Oliver
107 Mayer and John Silvester.

108

109 **7. Announcements:**

110 At the December meeting Sandeep Gupta will provide an opportunity to hear and discuss the
111 results of the task force on faculty evaluations. You will receive the white paper in advance.

112 Beth Meyerowitz will attend in place of Beth Garrett to discuss faculty affairs.

113

114 The Holiday dinner will be at the Altadena Town and Country Club on Dec. 12 – please come.

115

116 **8. New Business**

117 A discussion was held regarding the cancellation of Plan C. Several faculty feel that this is a
118 reduction in benefits, especially at ISI.

119

120 The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.

121

122 Respectfully submitted,

123

124

125 Lucinda Carver, D.M.A.

126 Secretary General of the Academic Senate

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