

1 Academic Senate
2 Meeting of December 10, 2014
3 University Club, Scriptorium Room
4

5
6 **MINUTES**
7

8 **Present:** S. Bice (alternate for J. Barnett) , P. Cannon, J. Chisum, G. Clark, E. Collins, S. Curran, R. Davila, A.
9 Dowd, C. Gomer, H. Greenwald, M. Gundersen, J. Kagan, M. Madden, E. McCann (alternate for A. Crigler),
10 K. Murphy, A. Neville-Jan, A. Ouellette, L. Palinkas, B. Rathbun, P. Rosenbloom, D. Ruddell, J. Silvester, D.
11 Sloane, R. Smith, J. Steele, I. Steinberg, M. Vicedo, C. Wang, E. Webb, W. Ziebis.

12 **Absent:** L. Carver, A. Hancock, J. Kopcsak, R. Lonergan, O. Mayer, D. Oakes, S. Palmer, R. Paulson, W.
13 Petak, C. Russell, M. Weinstien, R. Weisberg

14 **Guests:** M. Eshaghian , M. Levine, M. Quick, R. Romans, D. Sloane, C. Truhan

15
16 President John Silvester called the meeting to order at: 2:04pm

17
18 Melanee Vicedo standing in for Ange-Marie Hancock as secretary

19
20 **1. Dialogue with Michael Quick, Interim Provost**

21 Provost Quick's main goal is to have a nice hand off to the permanent provost when that
22 happens. He wants to continue the work we've been doing and continue moving initiatives
23 forward.

24
25 Status of the Provost search: President Nikias has named search committee and he is visiting
26 different groups to gather information on what we need.

27
28 A question about faculty evaluations was asked. A report was submitted to Provost with
29 recommendations. Provost Garrett submitted an answer to recommendations but it's still
30 unresolved. Faculty are concerned about evaluations being metrically numbered and
31 recommendation is to be more qualitative instead of quantitative. Provost Quick is aware of the
32 report and will continue to work on it.

33
34 Provost Quick was asked about the University's incentive behind a memo encouraging early
35 faculty retirement. Provost Quick indicated that the University wanted to help the people who
36 are interested in retiring with the process. The Office of Provost learned of concerns among
37 those who did want to retire and was hesitant because of the abrupt transition to retirement,
38 changes in finances, and not being aware of resources available to help with the process. The
39 University hired a retirement navigator who is working with 14-15 faculty members. The faculty
40 who have worked with the navigator have had positive experiences.

41
42 Navigator will be present at the January Academic Senate meeting.

43 The subject of sustainability was brought up and the desire for candidates for Provost to
44 address this topic during their interviews. The President is aware of this topic and will include
45 this in the process. Provost Quick agreed we need to do more on campus in terms of
46 environmental sustainability. The lack of recycling bins on campus was also brought up.

47
48 Provost Quick was asked about block grant proposals in Biology and how the new system is
49 unnecessarily complicated. Provost Quick indicated that in the past, the University has given a
50 block of money to schools to use for graduate programs. It was difficult to track the funding and
51 which projects it was applied to. The new model has the Provost's office in charge of granting
52 fellowships. Deans can use their money in other ways and help attract students with grant
53 funding. Tracking where the money is going is important. The Provost office is trying to find a
54 happy medium with fellowships while still allowing schools to move money where they need it.
55 They aren't changing how much money is going into graduate programs, just ability to track the
56 money.

57
58 The topic of diminished faculty parking was discussed. More spaces in the structures are
59 reserved and it is especially difficult for those people who come midday. Handicapped parking
60 is also dwindling and some structures have moved them further away from building entrances.
61 There have been no consultations with the Schools about parking issues. There seems to be no
62 apparent parking strategy. John Silvester will invite the head of transportation to a future
63 meeting to discuss these issues.

64
65 Making disability issues a priority for the new Provost was brought up. Doheny Library's
66 handicap access is cumbersome since the entrance is on the side and has to be opened by a
67 library staff member. In thematic option, there is a dedicated classroom for writing and a
68 student had to drop a class because the classroom was not accessible. Provost Quick
69 acknowledged this was an important issue.

70 General Education in the Humanities have not heard back about which courses have been
71 approved. Provost Quick will follow up.

72
73 Issue with non-smoking campus resolution was asked. There have been motions to designate
74 smoking sections on campus. Keck is non-smoking. The conversation on this issue is continuing.

75
76 In relation to the School's global reach, are there certain countries we would not go because of
77 discriminatory policies, lack of freedom of thought, privacy, and protected speech? We have
78 students from all over the world and are sending faculty to areas all over the world.
79 Most of the conversations relating to these issues in the Provost's office have been treated in a
80 case-by-case basis.

81
82 Thank you to Provost Quick for the dialogue.

83
84 2:32pm – noted the RSVP list circulating about the holiday party on January 23rd.

85

86 **2. Approval of Senate meeting minutes from November 19**

87 Minutes approved.

88

89 **3. Faculty Council Updates**

90

91 **Paula Cannon, Chair, Keck School of Medicine Faculty Council**

92 Professor Cannon shared information about the composition of Keck: 1550 FT faculty (42% of
93 USC faculty), 315 Tenure, TT faculty, 135 clinical located HSC, Children's Hospital. There are 36
94 Vice and Associate Deans and 13 institutes. There are 9 members in the Faculty Council; 6 are
95 clinical, 3 are non-clinical, most of whom are more able to participate in governance.

96 Ballot for FC election went out to all 1500 members and probably 250 responded. Part time
97 faculty does not vote. Elections are held for 3 members each year and slate should have two
98 candidates for each position. Current members nominate candidates. Elections are held toward
99 the end of the summer. Council selects the chair.

100

101 The FC meets every month, not with Dean, but with vice Dean, Judy Garner. FC meets with the
102 Dean about 2x a year. Dean seeks advice of the council when issues come up. Also, will ask for
103 nominations for the committee in promotions and tenure. In the past, the biggest action item
104 was getting the faculty center remodeled. The medical school and pharmacy faculty were
105 surveyed about the center and they received many responses. One frustration with the FC is
106 the size of Keck. It's hard to represent over 1500 people with disparate interests.

107

108 **David Sloane, Chair, Sol Price School of Public Policy Faculty Council**

109 Formed out of former School of Public Administration and was named three years ago.

110 Currently, Price has 50-65 faculty and the numbers are growing fast. Price has added a lot of
111 NTT faculty. The School has a diverse portfolio of programs from public policy to healthcare
112 management.

113

114 There are seven members in the FC from all ranks (TT and NTT) with annual elections in the
115 Spring and there is at least one NTT faculty in the group. The FC meets with the Dean and Vice
116 Dean once a month. Primary role is to provide advice to the Deans. Dean usually brings issues
117 on new initiatives that are not public yet. Topics have included recommendations for
118 committee appointments and annual merit reviews. Some of the issues and challenges the FC is
119 facing are the growing faculty numbers and logistics. Faculty are dispersed in different buildings
120 and space is always a concern.

121

122 **James Steele, Chair, School of Architecture Faculty Council**

123 The School celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. The FC or Executive committee consists of
124 5 members who are full-time faculty and acts as an advisory committee to the Dean. It does not
125 advise on tenure and retention. The staff also elects an ex-officio member that report back to
126 the staff. There is also one graduate and undergraduate student. The terms are two years and
127 terms are staggered. There is a limit of three consecutive terms. Members are assigned to
128 committees that include academics, facilities and financial issues.

129

130 Some issues the FC are addressing are representing the faculty as both faculty council and
131 executive committee and communication among the Dean, faculty and executive committee.

132

133

134 **4. Call for Nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Service Award, Peter Conti, Task Force**
135 **on Distinguished Faculty Service**

136 P. Conti was not able to attend.

137

138 Charles Gomer spoke instead and encouraged senate members to nominate colleagues from
139 our Schools who have done outstanding work. There can be 3-4 of these prestigious awards
140 given out per year. The call for nominations will come out soon and the award will be presented
141 in May.

142

143 **5. Update on Strategic Transformations Committee and the Joint Provost/Senate Retreat -**
144 **John Silvester, Academic Senate President and Robin Romans, Associate Provost**

145

146 Robin Romans shared that the Strategic Transformation Committee grew out of the strategic
147 plan itself and sought to make the strategic planning more of a participatory process. The first
148 strategic plan in the 90's had action points. The focus now is to create a vision and have the
149 Schools create the plan or action points.

150

151 The Committee has gone to each of the Schools, the Libraries and Student Affairs and asked for
152 a liaison to the Committee. They Committee have also asked these groups for information on
153 what they've done that links back to the Strategic Vision.

154

155 John Silvester shared the content of the Joint Provost and Senate Retreat being held on January
156 31st. There will be break out session with discussion on topics within the context of strategic
157 planning and visioning. There will be three sessions that will on these themes:

- 158 • Education for rapidly changing world (residential college, gen ed requirements)
- 159 • Connecting the individual to the world (globalization initiatives of USC, challenges to
160 these outreach initiatives, helping our students to be citizens of the world)
- 161 • Scholarship with consequence (transformative hiring, interdisciplinary work,
162 sustainability)

163 More details about the retreat and the keynote speaker will be forthcoming.

164

165 **6. Announcements**

166 Academic Senate holiday party is being held on January 21st after the Academic Senate meeting.
167 Holiday Party. All senate members and their guests are invited.

168 Retreat January 31

169 A mini-retreat on student evaluations is being planned in partnership with the Center for
170 Excellence in Teaching. This is planned for late January or February.

171

172 A suggestion on making student evaluations more longitudinal was raised (i.e., evaluating in the
173 third year to assess whether what they learned was useful).

174 **7. New Business**

175 No new business.

176

177 The meeting was adjourned at 3:37pm.

178

179 Respectfully submitted,

180

181 Melanee Vicedo

182 Senate Member

183 USC Libraries