ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Meeting of February 18, 2015
University Club, 2nd Floor, Scriptorium Room: 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Minutes

Present: P. Cannon, L. Carver, J. Chisum, G. Clark, E. Collins, A. Crigler, S. Curran, R. Davila,
M. Eshaghian (alternate for M. Gundersen), A. Dowd, C. Gomer, A. Hancock, E. Johnson, J.
Miller (alternate for R. Weintraub), K. Murphy, A. Ouellette, L. Palinkas, G. Ragusa, P.

Absent: J. Barnett, H. Greenwald, M. Madden, D. Oakes, S. Palmer, R. Paulson, W. Petak, B.
Rathbun, C. Russell, D. Ruddell, R. Smith, J. Steinberg, E. Webb, M. Weinstein, R. Weisberg


Call to Order - John Silvester, Academic Senate President (2:04 pm)

Remembrance and Moment of Silence for Ann Neville-Jan, Independent Health Professions
Remembrance offered by Paula Cannon and Julie McLaughlin-Gray

Approval of the January 21 Senate meeting minutes – minutes were amended to include
Andre Ouellette as present, not absent; minutes so amended were approved

Dialogue with the Interim Provost Michael Quick, Interim Provost and Senior Vice
President for Academic Affairs
Interim Provost Quick thanked those who participated in the Provost-Senate Retreat and
provided an update on the provost’s search. He also confirmed that based on the Senate’s
feedback, the guidelines for the upcoming UCAR process have been amended to provide
avenues for faculty to express their concerns about the reviews.

Update on Senate Activities
Ginger Clark reported on the upcoming Campus Climate Mini-Retreat in response to several
policing-related incidents on campus and larger national issues, which will be held on March 6,
2015. The conversation will start initially with a discussion of law enforcement and policing
issues at the national level, then funnel down into the USC climate, with the idea that this will
serve as a springboard for additional conversations and activities next year. Campus climate
was also added to the charge of the Faculty Environment Committee One idea for next year is
to create a separate standing committee to engage these complex issues.

John Silvester provided an update regarding campus safety and part-time faculty, two other
issues previously identified as requiring Senate attention. Regarding campus safety, Chief John
Thomas will be on the agenda for the March meeting to talk about issues faculty face regarding
faculty – particularly bicycle and skateboard traffic. The NTT Committee has been working on
issues specific to Part-Time Faculty, and hopes to have some recommendations towards the
end of the year about how to move forward.
Jeremy Kagan provided an update regarding the Sustainability Committee – the Sustainable Tracking Assessment Report (STAR) for USC has been under preparation and the Sustainability Committee has been looking at ideas to improve USC’s current Bronze rating. STARs Sustainable Tracking Assessment Report for USC has been under preparation.

Ange-Marie Hancock reported on the Senate Communications Task Force, which has prepared a survey that will be distributed to all faculty on February 23rd.

Discussion with Tony Mazza, Director, Trojan Transportation

Tony Mazza updated the Senate on expanded parking availability at the Shrine parking lot due to the University Village project (completion expected in November 2016) and ongoing availability at the Parking Center, which has 1000 spaces available daily, is cheaper and has free shuttles (it is also a 10-minute walk from the east side of campus). Concerns were raised about the difficulty of finding parking during the day. Lack of available parking (and the difficulty of locating any slots that may be open) has caused people to miss important meetings, be late for class, etc. This is especially true on the southwest part of campus. Open parking lots have been converted to new buildings, parts of existing parking structures have been converted to other uses, more reserved slots have been purchased – all of which has reduced the availability of general use parking spaces. Reserved Parking is for faculty and staff with a demonstrated need; according to Mazza, the challenge is that people want to park where they work and a culture shift may be in order, since the need for reserved parking will likely continue. Suggestions were made that may help: i) allocate a pool of spaces for faculty (since they tend to have more irregular schedules); ii) use technology to make finding available spaces more efficient; iii) prioritize the need for adequate parking when new buildings are planned; iv) provide better incentives to reduce the demand for parking on campus.

Presentation by USG President Andrew Menard

Andrew Menard presented the undergraduate student proposal for instituting a Fall Break that was originally presented to the Academic Calendar Committee. Both Menard and Frank Chang, Associate Registrar, took questions regarding possible implementation.

Presentation by Janette Brown, Executive Director, Emeriti Center and Deborah Jones, Retirement Navigator

Janette Brown and Deborah Jones discussed the resources available to retired faculty and the recently created Faculty Early Retirement program, which is the product of a collaboration between the Academic Senate and Vice Provost of Faculty Affairs Beth Meyerowitz. These resources include collaboration for many issues among multiple USC departments. Jones collaborates with her counterpart in the Benefits Office, and both collaborate with the Center for Work and Family Life to create a comprehensive set of resources for faculty interested in making the transition to retirement.

Faculty Council Update

Alicia Dowd, Chair of the Rossier School of Education’s Faculty Council provided an update about issues addressed by the council. They have recently reviewed the paths by which faculty join the council – how might they express interest and how do they end up participating in the council in order to sort out the best practices and procedures for wide participation. The council has also met twice in the past year with the Director of Part-Time Faculty in Rossier in order to facilitate participation of the Part Time NTT faculty in faculty governance. No decisions have been made yet.
Announcements

a) There will be a Mini Retreat held on March 6, 2015 at the Campus Tutor Center, Rosen Family Screening Theatre

b) The deadline for submission of nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Service is March 11, 2015. The memo is attached for your review.

c) March 25 Senate Meeting Location Reminder: HSC, ZNI, Herklotz Conference Room 112

d) The Senate Annual Planning Retreat will be held on August 21, 2015 (venue to be determined)

ADJOURNED, 4:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Ange-Marie Hancock, Ph.D.
Secretary General of the Academic Senate