ACADEMIC SENATE
Meeting of February 24, 2016

PLEASE NOTE MEETING VENUE
School of Dentistry, Blaire Rooms (A, B, and C)
925 W. 34th Street, 90089-0641
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.


Absent: M. Burgos, P. Cannon, S. Curran, F. Habeeb, E. Johnson, R. Jubran, R. Paulson, A. Renteln, R. Smith, B. Stiles, C. Templeman, R. Watanabe

Guests: M. Eshaghian, K. Howell, D. James, E. Johnson, M. Levine, J. McLaughlin-Gray, M. Quick, L. Unterman,

Ginger Clark, Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2 p.m.

Approval of January Senate Meeting Draft Minutes
The January Senate meeting minutes were approved by acclimation.

Discussion re: Textbook Options
Ruben Davila and Darren James, Director of Retail for USC Auxiliary Services, presented a set of textbook initiatives re: making sure the textbook process is smooth for students and faculty and takes pricing into account. For Questions about USC Bookstore, contact darrenja@usc.edu; for questions about the textbook store, which is located on the third floor, is Patrick Blackwell of Follett and Darren can connect you. The handout that was distributed at the meeting will be made available electronically.

Academic Computing Report
Yaniv Bar-Cohen, Chair of the USC’s Research Committee summarized the findings and presented the recommendations in the Academic Computing report, which was distributed electronically as part of the Senate agenda packet. They sought an endorsement – Rebecca moved and Darren seconded the motion to endorse – the motion passed 26 in favor; 1 abstention.

Dialogue with the Provost
Provost Quick provided three primary updates:

Unionization – SEIU filed an NLRB complaint and called for a re-vote in Dornsife based on claims of an intimidating environment created by actions of the provost in school meetings and memos. SEIU presented their arguments today; USC is to present their arguments tomorrow. The outcomes available to the NLRB Regional Director, who will make the ruling, include: a re-vote, a certification of the vote, or, if the actions are egregious, overturn the original vote against the union in favor of establishing a union. There is an appeals process to the national NLRB office in Washington, DC.

Provost Quick also announced a proposed collaboration (in the formative stages) between USC, the City of Los Angeles, and the County of Los Angeles around resolving homelessness. This is an ongoing conversation among Tom Sayles, Senior VP for University Relations and city/county officials. The idea would be to have all stakeholders contribute resources to an “ending homelessness” initiative/effort, but the process will start with a day-long symposium here at USC in April. Moving forward from that includes a conversation between the provost and all the
about how to get at this issue – it is an issue that many if not all of our schools can
participate in, and there are already many efforts in this regard.

The provost also thanked everyone who participated in the Provost-Senate Retreat – there were
lots of good ideas and there are many things the university is working on. One thing he hears
from a lot of people is how chaotic everything is – but it is chaotic in a good way because we are
opening it up to conversation, shared governance and collaboration. We are moving the ship in
the right direction, including recommendations that have already been made by the Diversity
Task Force, including better data transparency and a kind of scorecard similar to those done by
Stanford, Harvard, etc. The Diversity Liaisons will be meeting tomorrow for the first time to
start determining the roles and responsibilities of the position, along with the deans’ reviews
being tied to progress on these issues. The deans are also being asked to create five-year plans
that will help in this review process and are completely on board with making this an aspect of
their review. Provost Quick also asked the GE committee to review the language of the Global
Perspectives category to make sure that the diversity requirement’s incorporation into this
category is more clear. The GE committee have submitted language to the Provost and it will be
submitted to the Curriculum Committee with a more explicit set of words around diversity in our
General Education curriculum.

**Part-Time Resolution**
The Part-Time Faculty Committee has revised the resolution and sent it back to President Clark.
She will look at it and send it out via email to the Senate so that it can be shared with the
respective faculty councils in advance of the next full Senate meeting in March.

**Nominating Committee**
There is one slot – Academic Vice President – that remains to be filled but otherwise the
nominations are proceeding nicely.

**Provost/Academic Senate Retreat**
There was a discussion of the recent retreat, which focused on access and opportunity. Ginger
Clark will distribute a summary document of the proceedings. Feedback included the idea of
pushing for a smoke free campus, encouraging the Staff Assembly to discuss climate, equity, and
inclusion, and engaging alumni in climate, equity, and inclusion efforts. There was also a
discussion on how to engage our colleagues in dialogues around the importance of diversity on
our campus.

**Announcement:** Please note that the March 23rd meeting will be held in this venue, DEN,
Blaire Rooms A, B, & C, 2:00 - 4:00 pm.

**New Business**

*The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.*

Respectfully submitted,

Ange-Marie Hancock, Ph.D.

Secretary General of the Academic Senate