ACADEMIC SENATE
Meeting of January 20, 2016
School of Dentistry, Blaire Rooms (A, B, & C) *
925 W. 34th Street, 90089-0641

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA


Guests: A. Capron, M. Levine, J. Moore, M. Quick, L. Unterman

Call to Order – Ginger Clark, Academic Senate President called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm

Approval of November and December Senate meetings draft minutes
The November meeting minutes were approved. The December meeting minutes were amended to reflect that the first read of the part-time faculty resolution was preempted by the Part-Time Faculty Committee report that served as the catalyst for the resolution. The amended meeting minutes were also approved.

Dialogue with Provost Quick
Provost Quick reported on joint visits to the School of Gerontology and Marshall School of Business with President Clark and Vice President Cannon. More visits to each of the 19 schools are welcome. The provost also took questions from the floor.

Update on Undergraduate Admissions: The admissions deadline for 2016-2017 was Friday, January 15. An estimated 54,000 applications were submitted for 2,700 first-year slots for undergrads, which will produce an estimated admission rate of 16% admission rate, making USC about as selective as the Ivy Leagues. Graduate admissions numbers are forthcoming.

Unionization Update: Three units are voting right now through January 29th – Roski, Dornsife College, and the new USC International Academy. Together the three units comprise ~500 faculty (little less than 10% of faculty – we are about 6800 faculty right now). Provost Quick that some issues of faculty governance must remain in a holding pattern because of the requirements of the unionization process.

Campus Climate Update: To follow up on Provost Quick’s memo on access and opportunity from last semester, several additional programs were announced:
- The first of campus forum series on diversity, access, and opportunity will be held today at 7:30 pm in Doheny Library
- A Diversity Task Force co-chaired by Varun Soni and Ainsley Carry has been appointed
- All deans have been asked to name at least one Diversity Liaison from each school who can work and coordinate with the team in the Provost’s Office. The Provost’s Office will also hold a retreat in the summer before the new school year of the diversity liaisons, etc.
- Have created a new website: http://diversity.usc.edu/ that has been launched (in beta) and will continue to be improved.
First Read, Resolution 15/16-004: Proposal on Change in Part-Time Faculty Policies and Practices

Discussion of the resolution, which is a response to the part-time faculty committee report. Feedback was solicited following the distribution to the Faculty Councils with the intention of building a consensus surrounding the resolution for passage. Should the resolution pass, it will be forwarded to the Faculty Handbook Committee for drafting of relevant language, which will follow the procedural rules in the by-laws. Following extensive vigorous discussion and several important questions raised about the document, the Senate was encouraged to email President Clark additional notes. The notes will then be forwarded to the Part-Time Committee, who will revise and resubmit and then bring it back to the Executive Board, which will then bring it back to the full Senate during the March meeting.

Update on Unionization
Professor Clark presented the notion that the pending unionization efforts will have an effect on the Senate’s ability to represent the faculty in the units that successfully unionize.

Call for Nominations and Updates
President Clark directed the Senate’s attention to the following awards and updates:

a) Distinguished Faculty Service (general provost memo) and Walter Wolf Awards (faculty who push for academic freedom)
b) USC Mentoring Awards (general memo from CET)
c) The Senate Retreat will be held February 12-13 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles.

* Please note the new location of the full Senate meetings for the remainder of the Spring 2016 semester.

Adjournment - The Senate meeting adjourned at 3:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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