Academic Senate Meeting Minutes
University Club Scriptorium Room
January 21, 2015


Guests: F. Chang, S. Golomb, M. Levine, M. Quick, W. Regensburger

1. Call To Order - John Silvester, Academic Senate President

2. Moments of Silence and Comments by Professor Sol Golomb, Marty Levine, Ann Crigler, Irving Steinberg, Robert Labaree for the late Professor Walter Wolf. There will also be a memorial for any faculty who wish to attend at 4 pm on Thursday, February 5, 2015 at the School of Pharmacy (Room 112 of the Pharmaceutical Sciences Center)

3. Resolution 14/15 - 001: Establishing the Walter Wolf Award – Chuck Gomer presented a resolution to create a faculty advocacy award in Walter Wolf’s name, which would honor his role in protecting academic freedom and issues of social conscience, and would be open to faculty who have contributed to USC in this vein through their own faculty service, teaching, scholarship or role as a public intellectual. The resolution has been signed by all of the former Senate presidents and was unanimously approved by the Executive Board to be referred to the full Senate for approval.

Charles Gomer moved; Ann Crigler seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

4. Dialogue with the Interim Provost Michael Quick, Interim Provost
Interim Provost Quick announced two notable hires: new Gould School of Law Dean Andrew Guzman, who is currently a faculty member at UC Berkeley Boalt School of Law and will join USC in July; and James Heckman, a Nobel-Prize winning economist from the University of Chicago, who will be joining the Schaeffer Center for Health Economics. The search for a new Dean of the School of Pharmacy is ongoing.

Provost Quick also provided updates regarding the role of the University Committee on Academic Review (UCAR). The process of UCAR III will begin very soon – it will be about a 10 year process to review all terminal degrees – of the 80-90 total programs we have, the university conducts 8-9 graduate program reviews annually. Because UCAR III is just about to begin, please take these updates back to your councils to get some feedback and either send that feedback directly to Provost Quick or if necessary the Senate will put it back on the agenda.

5. December 10, 2014 Meeting Minutes - Ange-Marie Hancock, Secretary General
Ginger Clark Moved for approval; Alicia Dowd seconded. Vote: 25 approved; 0 opposed; 5 abstentions

The recent events on and off campus that affect our students have produced numerous changes on campus and the surrounding area, including increased security cameras and staff; a community safety campaign with residents and neighbors; and the LiveSafe App, which was released in November. Director Regensburger shared the LiveSafe App, which has so far gotten ~5,000 downloads (including students along with some parents and faculty/staff). The administration is aiming for 20-25,000 students to download the app over the first two years. The LiveSafe app becomes your personal “blue light” emergency phone by allowing users to Call DPS, 911, or to text message DPS. You can download it via the AppStore or Google Play; be sure to select University of Southern California. Both Director Regensburger and Chief John Thomas are asking faculty to spread the word among the students and to download it themselves.

7. Faculty Council Updates (3:05 - 3:15)
Eric Webb, Chair, Dornsife College Faculty Council
Dornsife has 8400 undergraduate students; 1800 graduate students. 454 TT faculty 392 NTT (of which 142 are part-time). Wide variety of disciplines and the concerns are similarly varied. Dornsife Faculty Council terms are typically 2 years and the council is elected. The council meets with Dean Kay once per semester, the questions the council provides to Dean Kay in these sessions come from a wide variety of the disciplines and the concerns are similarly varied. There is also an oversight committee that includes the President, Vice President and Secretary. One recent victory has been to work with the Dean to upgrade faculty lab facilities

Last year the Council spent a lot of time on the size of the council due to the discovery of NTT faculty underrepresentation. The council was trimmed to 12 TT (4 Humanities, 4 Sciences, and 4 Social Sciences) along with 4 NTT faculty from any discipline.

Dornsife Faculty Council Goals for 2014-2015:
- Enriching Dornsife Faculty – setting salary aside, the emphasis is on identifying small investments that could make a big difference in faculty performance, productivity & morale – the trick is making things implementable without increasing bureaucracy (e.g. streamlining the travel grant process). Safety on Campus – they are in the process of organizing a couple of information sessions similar to the one that occurred during the Senate Planning Retreat specifically for Dornsife faculty
- Graduate Programs and Funding – this is a part of the landscape that is changing rapidly and the Council is seeking to give advice to Dean Kay about this topic.
- NTT issues – Dornsife has significant numbers of all kinds of NTT faculty and thus their needs are as wide and varied as that might suggest.

8. Discussion regarding the Academic Calendars by Frank Chang, Associate Registrar,
Associate Registrar Chang shared two recent proposals to the Calendar Committee: one to celebrate/commemorate Cesar Chavez Day in the Spring (proposed by a USC faculty member) and one from the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) to create a fall break by taking two days off (Monday and Tuesday) during week 7 and instead have class on what are currently the first two study days at the end of the semester, which would
extend the end of the exam period by two days, as the students want to keep 4 study days at the end of the term. The Senate offered feedback on both proposals.

9. Update regarding the joint Provost/Senate Retreat – RSVP’s are needed by Monday if you plan to attend and haven’t yet responded.

10. New Business: In between the time of adjournment and the scheduled holiday dinner, VP Ginger Clark is happy to discuss the topic for the next mini-retreat, scheduled for March 6th, which will focus on recent events in Ferguson, MO; Colorado; Staten Island, NY; the Charlie Hebdo tragedy in Paris, etc. If you are interested, please speak with Ginger this afternoon or send a note of interest to Ginger or John

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

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