

1 Academic Senate
2 Meeting of May 8, 2013
3 University Club, Scriptorium Room
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5 **MINUTES**
6

7 **Present:** R. Ben-Ari, D. Blaine, P. Cannon, L. Carver, , G. Clark, S. Curran, C. Dieterle, P.
8 Ethington, S. Geck, R. Girandola, H. Greenwald, S. Gupta, K. Howell, M. Jordan-Marsh, J. Kagan,
9 R. Labaree, R. Lonergan, V. Marmarelis, O. Mayer, E. McCann, R. Mosteller, K. Murphy, J. Nyquist,
10 J. Orr, M. Parks, J. Platt, P. Riley, M. Schroeder, J. Silvester, D. Spruitz-Metz, A. Trope, K. Venegas,
11 M. Weinstein, W. Wolf

12 **Absent:** D. Brooks, P. Conti, R. Davila, Y. DeClerck, R. Flick, C. Gomer, L. Hunt, A. Lakoff, D.
13 Larsen, R. Lin, M. Marx, E. McCaffery, J. Moffett, E. Moore, J. Steele, C. Wang

14 **Guests:** J. Brecher, T. Brunold, D. Byrd, J. Garner, K. Howell M. Jackson, L. Macchia, S. Rasheed,
15 I. Rhimes, J. Swerling, E. Wilson, C. Zachary

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17 President Patti Riley called the meeting to order at 2:03pm:
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19 **1. Presentation of the Distinguished Faculty Service Awards – J. Nyquist**

20 The following three faculty members received the Distinguished Faculty Service Awards:

- 21 1) Professor James Brecher, Dornsife College of L.A.S – presented by Vice Dean Dani Byrd
22 2) Professor Suraiya Rasheed, Keck School of Medicine – presented by Vice Dean Judy Garner
23 3) Professor Jerry Swerling, Annenberg School for Communication – presented by
24 Dean Ernest Wilson
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26 Special Awards were also presented to Ilee Rhimes, outgoing Vice Provost and CIO of the
27 Information Technology Services and Michael Jackson, outgoing Vice President of the Student
28 Affairs.
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30 It is traditional to recognize the President’s work and success at this time so Professor Charles
31 Gomer, Academic Vice President, presented this plaque to Professor Patricia Riley:
32

33 *“For Her Outstanding Leadership, Intellectual Integrity, Innovation, and Dedicated Service as*
34 *President of the Faculty, 2012-2013”*

35 **2. Dialogue Regarding the LAPD Response to a Student Party – A. Trope**

36 A forum was arranged with LAPD to discuss the recent party involving mostly African-
37 American students where, because of a noise complaint, 79 LAPD officers showed up in riot
38 gear and arrested 6 students, while the police simply told the students at a mostly white party
39 nearby to go inside. The African-American students had done everything correctly, including
40 obtaining a campus permit for the party.
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42 The forum with LAPD, which took place on May 7th, had 1,500 RSVP’s on Facebook from those
43 wishing to attend. It took place in the Tutor Center Ballroom, which holds 800 people; as a

44 result there were an estimated 200-300 people who could not get in. The event was heated and
45 emotional but handled with great diplomacy by our students, who had used social media very
46 well to capture the details of the encounter. The LAPD is doing an internal investigation. The
47 panelists included LAPD officers, Chief Thomas from DPS and it was moderated by USC Law
48 School Professor Jody Armor. The notable absence of President Nikias and Provost Garrett was
49 a source of disappointment to the students who were at least hoping for a video message.

50
51 The questions asked at the forum included: Why was LAPD called instead of DPS? Why did
52 they show up in riot gear? The group came up with many suggestions, including the creation of
53 a coalition of students, faculty, administrators, that could meet regularly with DPS and LAPD.

54
55 Q: I am curious about the role of DPS

56 A: DPS was there. It is unclear exactly when they showed up on the scene, but students were
57 already on the ground in handcuffs when DPS arrived. One of those in handcuffs was a 100lb
58 woman who is a trustee scholar who can be seen being thrown to the ground screaming bloody
59 murder. The typical protocol is that LAPD will hand things off to DPS, but for some reason this
60 didn't happen. The location of the party was clearly within DPS enforcement.

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62 Q: Why didn't DPS protect students from LAPD?

63 A: DPS stood and watched. LAPD went in 90 minutes after noise complaint. LAPD claims that
64 some debris was thrown at them.

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66 Tom Sayles is our community representative for USC. Our head of DPS has regular meetings
67 with the head of LAPD.

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69 Q: Do we have an agreement with LAPD about cops on campus?

70 A: The Executive Board has been told that LAPD defers to DPS within a certain zone. For some
71 reason it did not happen in this situation.

72
73 DPS are actually deputies of LAPD – in a subordinate position. Once LAPD intervenes, LAPD
74 is in charge.

75
76 Ernest James Wilson, Dean of the Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism spoke
77 about this situation:

78 This creates a mood on campus that is not just bureaucratic but a human issue. The boy who
79 threw the party was a graduating student of Annenberg, has gotten a job and has loved his
80 experience here. He was absolutely distraught. Most of these students were Topping scholars –
81 among our best students – who up until that moment loved USC. We are about teaching and
82 nurturing the next generation. I have spoken with black faculty on this campus. My God I
83 thought we were beyond this in 2013. There have been a series of incidents, including one at the
84 groundbreaking of the new Annenberg building. As we try to recruit more students and faculty
85 of color, one of the questions is the environment on campus. I was stunned and delighted by the
86 forward-looking behavior of the white students at the forum. A number of students who had
87 attended the other party came forward and disputed the claims made by LAPD.

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90 **3. Admission Report – Tim Brunold, Dean of Admissions**

91 It has been a very successful year for freshman recruitment. We have had a record number of
92 applicants, with the greatest levels of selectivity and highest grades and test scores. As of 5/1
93 deadline, we have slightly more than the volume we wanted – will be at 2900-3000 freshmen,
94 slightly lower than last year. Demographics include the most diverse group: 61% people of color,
95 7% African American, 14% Hispanic, 2% Native American/Pacific Islander. There are more
96 international freshmen than ever before, with 50 different countries in freshman class. The most
97 represented countries are China, Canada, Taiwan and South Korea. Our median test score (2100
98 out of 2400) is in the 96th percentile; average GPA (unweighted) is 3.75. If weighted it would be
99 over 4.0. We had over 8,000 applicants with a perfect 4.0. These students appear to be more
100 engaged and will be interesting to teach. We have a lot of competition, especially from Stanford,
101 Ivy Leagues, Northwestern, Duke, UCLA, Berkeley, but we are making ground on these
102 institutions. Only 1 in 3 students who are admitted accept our offer.

103
104 This was the first year when less than 50% are from California. Every state is represented except
105 South Dakota. We've seen the largest increase in New England and the South, and almost 60%
106 are from western USA. We have over 8,000 transfer student applicants – are working on them
107 now. Grad student applications are also being worked on – this process is more spread out. We
108 experienced a downturn in grad applications this year. Other universities are experiencing this as
109 well.

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111 Q: Are foreign students included in data re test scores?

112 A: Absolutely. Average TOEFL is 107 out of 120 – 90th percentile.

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114 Q: Are we holding on the number of students who are first time college attenders?

115 A: Yes. 1 in 8 and these are 12-13% of class. Many from underrepresented minority groups but
116 also lately more Caucasian as well.

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118 **4. Update on Health Benefits – Lisa Macchia**

119 We met with Kaiser this week and heard about a 4.25% increase – we are not pleased. We have
120 been under their projection and gave them a hard time. Kaiser has made a practice of not
121 negotiating their rate. In order to get a discount we need to make benefit cuts but there is no
122 room to cut. We are hoping Kaiser will take the message back.

123
124 With Anthem Blue Cross we are collective bargaining employees. We are evaluating Rx claims
125 in the USC Network. USC will need to pay circa 4.5 million dollars in fees as a result of health
126 care reform over and above what we pay this year. An increase in fees accounted for 2% of the
127 increase in the Kaiser plan. Anyone who works 20 hours per week is eligible for health care,
128 except for the hospitals, where it is 32 hours per week.

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130 Q: Has there been any change in the relationship between the Network and the University
131 Hospital since the hospital took over the outpatient clinic?

132 A: The Network plan pays Keck hospitals pursuant to what the rates are between hospitals and
133 Anthem Blue Cross. There have also been facility charges in association with office visits.

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135 There are really two big insurers – Anthem and United Health Care (and then there is Kaiser.)

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5. Approval of April Senate Meeting Minutes – D. Blaine

The minutes were approved with one correction.

Yes votes: 15

No votes: 1

Abstentions: 3

6. Committee Preliminary/Final Reports – Patti Riley

There will be a specialized email address for each committee. We want to establish a joint committee to address the ongoing problems in the Childcare Center.

Q: The Judge Widney professorships are appointed by the president. Do we need to have some understanding of the rules and privileges of such individuals?

A: We have had some emails about the Petraeus and Schwarzenegger appointments. These are not paid professorships, but endowed titles. This is a cause for concern as it has gotten us some bad press.

Several ongoing task forces are at work, including that on Faculty Evaluation, led by Sandeep Gupta. A draft report has been prepared. Several schools believe that evaluations should be qualitative rather than quantitative. Teaching evaluations are perceived as a weak form of measurement and based on a single metric. We are exploring doing peer evaluations and a range of things. We realize that between this extreme and what we now do, there are many things we can do in between.

The Faculty Rights and Responsibilities Committee has worked very hard this year, with 11 grievances.

Announcements:

Don't forget the end of year party this evening at the Annenberg Beach House.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:02.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucinda Carver, D.M.A.
Secretary General of the Academic Senate