Academic Senate
Meeting of May 14, 2014
University Club, Scriptorium Room

MINUTES


Guests: S. Altman, C. Ainsley, R. Cutietta, E. Garrett, A. Hancock, N. Hanel, K. Howell, M. Levine, R. Lonergan, E. Wilson,

meeting called to order 2:02 by President Charles Gomer

moment of silence for Arnold Dunn, Past President of the USC Faculty Senate

approval of April minutes, moved and passed, 26 yay, 3 abstentions

John Silvester introduces new Executive Board members

Julie Nyquist presents Distinguished Faculty Service Awards
Margo Apostolos, Kaufman School of Dance; Patricia Riley, Annenberg School of Communication; Marty Levine, Office of the Provost and Gould School of Law.

John Silvester presents plaque to outgoing Senate President Charles Gomer

Nick Stoubis reports from the Non-Tenure Track Faculty Affairs Committee. Committee sought meaningful ways to engage NTT faculty. Decided to collaborate with CET. Presented panels on preparing Merit Reviews, syllabus construction, and career trajectory. Also focused on NTT participation in faculty governance, including at Viterbi Engineering School and the adequacy of online teaching evaluations. Recommendations for next year include focus on mentorship for NTT; continued promotion of NTT sabbaticals; integrating NTT from Health Sciences; collaboration with CET; and advocacy for NTT.

q. in the last decade, how has the percentage of NTT changed?
a. do not have an answer to that.

Keck for example is hiring clinical faculty because of new hospitals, so numbers by themselves may not be as useful as school-by-school. The numbers of teaching NTT
faculty have not necessarily risen. Clinicians and researchers are NTT and they garner grants and follow national trends in terms of hiring.

q. the white paper showed several years ago that there was some increase in NTT numbers compared to TT. There was also a rise in part-time as opposed to full-time faculty, which is a different issue.

q. were any materials generated from the workshop on Merit Review preparation?

a. no although there was some video made of the session and that is available

q. a separate workshop on promotion would be helpful too.

Provost Garrett announces Fall class, 51k applications. Admissions under 18%. 3217 deposits for Fall in place, higher than expected. The yield went up, showing that we are increasingly the college of choice: 32.7%. With melt we probably will have about 3000 students. We sought students who wanted to come to USC. There will be 300 Spring admits, a higher amount than previous. There are now Fall rituals for Spring admits to help them feel a part of the community.

Orientation increasingly includes safety issues, how to be smart in urban neighborhoods, at night, with excessive alcohol and drug use, sexual assaults, etc.

q. the standard of comparison is USC historically. What about our admissions relative to the schools with which we are….

a. we do a ton of analysis on that. Mainly we focus on how to compete better with the schools that get the students we want. This has changed in the last 3 years because we are a hot school right now, for example on the eastern seaboard. What’s relevant is getting better here, getting a 40% yield rate.

q. in the Fall when this data is better available can we see it?

a. ask Katherine yes.

q. you said there’s a change in strategy to increase yields to pick students who want to come to USC. I am mainly concerned with quality. Do you look at this?

a. yes we plot on graphs, where students fall on objective measures, then see which of them want to come here, who attended a summer school session, etc. We don’t pick students who don’t want to come here because that takes the place of a student who wants to be here. We cannot pick all of the excellent students that apply. We are strategic, and our SATs have gone up, so we are succeeding. There’s also great artists, etc, besides academic excellence.

q. the debt students incur is worrying and a national problem.
It is not our problem at the undergraduates. The average debt-load is 24k, under the national average. This is in spite of our being more expensive than many other schools. Would a billion-dollar endowment change student debt? Every student pays a different price according to a number of factors, high need, medium need, and no-need. The high-need students do graduate with debt. I believe people should have skin in the game. Students with some debt-load can do better, have invested. But that’s 4 or 5k, amounts that don’t change career choices. I worry more about the students in 75k-180k bracket. They are going to struggle. I would target these middle-American students.

Ainsley Carry joins Provost Garrett to discuss Residential Education. Residential colleges, like those at Ivy League institutions, have the student enroll in the university then live in an environment that integrates learning and living. Dining, advising, identifying marks, all result in connection to community. As students transition to college they need to feel connected as well as to transition academically. Parents are concerned about the community aspect. Organizations, etc. So the spirit of the Residential College is about building this community. 75% not engaged in Greek Life. We want avenues for them to plug in. Every Freshman will be invited to live as part of a Residential College, some themed, some un-themed. Service will be included. Community of like-minded scholars will be sought, so curricular and co-curricular experiences will be devised. By 2017 all Residential Colleges will be ready and branded.

What’s the twenty-first century version of Residential Colleges? We’re not here to mimic the Ivies. There will be privileges for belonging to these colleges although the experience will not be mandatory. We want to make these multi-year experiences. There needs to be housing inventory so students can stay on after Freshman year. Also after moving out for junior and senior years, you remain a community member. Interdisciplinary themes will be used as well, like heath, business, etc. These will guide the faculty members who live and work there and create programming. The focus is all about education—the movie, the play, the show, will drive students closer and closer to their academic interests.

q. as a Residential Faculty, I encourage you to think of people who are right for this.

q. My spouse and I have loved the experience. We look forward to building out the Faculty Fellow program. Going to plays and things with students show them how to engage with faculty and inspire them to consider their own career paths.

q. how many students are in Res Ed?

a. all freshmen are. The focus now is on branding the experience. Students select choices on their applications, first, second and third choices. There will be standard programming for all colleges, but the themed units will have programming driven by those themes.

q. won’t there be enormous competition for certain colleges?
a. we look forward to the day students fight to get into certain themed colleges.

q. are NTT Faculty eligible to be Resident Faculty?

a. yes. But not Faculty Masters.

q. is the goal that each college is going to be vertically integrated?

a. yes.

q. I advocate for non-theme houses. There’s too much homogeneity already in disciplines—I made my friends from my college not my major.

Provost Garrett also filled in the Senate on current searches, one for Director for Asia-Pacific Museum; also a Dean search for Gould School of Law.

Provost Garrett acknowledges the excellent work done by President Gomer this year.

Sandeep Gupta reports from Academic Senate Faculty Handbook committee. Discussion of changes. Submission of changes.

q. so if the NTT adequate clause definition changes does that change the 8C definition?

a. no. “Egregious” pertains to tenured faculty who have been presumably vetted adequately for their competence.

q. for absences of teaching, are they required under this policy to be away no more than 2 consecutive weeks?

a. we discussed this and want to leave that for next year.

Vote on an amendment to adopt change in language, moved and seconded. 20 yea, 6 nay.

Vote on proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 as amended. Moved and seconded. 27 yea.

Announcements:

Overview of Senate activities: President Gomer thanks all for participation in governance. He notes accomplishments of the year, including inclusion of NTT in Viterbi faculty council governance.

Rossier announces their Diversity and Inclusion Committee is preparing to mark passage of the Civil Rights Act 50 years ago. They seek information about whether any other schools plan recognition of this anniversary.
Jeremy Kagan announces Sustainability Video contest for students and faculty

Senate Planning Retreat August 20, venue tba.

Gavel handed over to incoming President John Silvester.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Blaine

Member-at-Large of the Academic Senate