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

MINUTES

Present: R. Ben-Ari, D. Blaine, B. Brown, P. Cannon, L. Carver, E. Collins, G. Clark, P. Conti, S. Curran, C. Daley (alternate for L. Fetters), R. Davila, A. Dowd, C. Gomer, S. Gupta, J. Kagan, R. Labaree, D. Lawrence-Hughes (alternate for A. Trope), P. Liebig, T. Lyon, M. V. Marx, O. Mayer, S. Mosley, K. Murphy, J. Nyquist, A. Ouellette, L. Palinkas, B. Rathbun, P. Riley, P. Rosenbloom, M. Safonov (alternate for J. Kunc), M. Schroeder, J. Silvester, N. Stoubis, C. Wang (alternate for D. Davies), E. Webb, M. Weinstein

Absent: J. Barnes, A. Crigler, Y. DeClerck, B. Edwards, H. Greenwald, S. Palmer, R. Paulson, D. Richter, D. Ruddell, C. Russell, S. Sanudo- Wilhelmly, J. Steele, A. Trope, R. Weisberg

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

48 faculty have not necessarily risen. Clinicians and researchers are NTT and they garner
49 grants and follow national trends in terms of hiring.

50

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

54

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

56

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

58

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

60

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

67

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

70

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

73

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

78

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

80

81 a. ask Katherine yes.

82

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

85

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

92

93 q. the debt students incur is worrying and a national problem.

94

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

103

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

115

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

125

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

127

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

131

132 q. how many students are in Res Ed?

133

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

138

139 q. won't there be enormous competition for certain colleges?

140
141 a. we look forward to the day students fight to get into certain themed colleges.
142
143 q. are NTT Faculty eligible to be Resident Faculty?
144
145 a. yes. But not Faculty Masters.
146
147 q. is the goal that each college is going to be vertically integrated?
148
149 a. yes.
150
151 q. I advocate for non-theme houses. There's too much homogeneity already in
152 disciplines—I made my friends from my college not my major.
153
154 Provost Garrett also filled in the Senate on current searches, one for Director for Asia-
155 Pacific Museum; also a Dean search for Gould School of Law.
156
157 Provost Garrett acknowledges the excellent work done by President Gomer this year.
158
159 Sandeep Gupta reports from Academic Senate Faculty Handbook committee. Discussion
160 of changes. Submission of changes.
161
162 q. so if the NTT adequate clause definition changes does that change the 8C definition?
163
164 a. no. “Egregious” pertains to tenured faculty who have been presumably vetted
165 adequately for their competence.
166
167 q. for absences of teaching, are they required under this policy to be away no more than
168 2 consecutive weeks?
169
170 a. we discussed this and want to leave that for next year.
171
172 Vote on an amendment to adopt change in language, moved and seconded. 20 yea, 6 nay.
173
174 Vote on proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10 as amended.
175 Moved and seconded. 27 yea.
176
177 Announcements:
178
179 Overview of Senate activities: President Gomer thanks all for participation in
180 governance. He notes accomplishments of the year, including inclusion of NTT in Viterbi
181 faculty council governance.
182
183 Rossier announces their Diversity and Inclusion Committee is preparing to mark passage
184 of the Civil Rights Act 50 years ago. They seek information about whether any other
185 schools plan recognition of this anniversary.

186
187 Jeremy Kagan announces Sustainability Video contest for students and faculty
188
189 Senate Planning Retreat August 20, venue tba.
190
191 Gavel handed over to incoming President John Silvester.
192
193 Meeting adjourned.
194
195 Respectfully submitted,
196
197 Diana Blaine
198 Member-at-Large of the Academic Senate
199