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ACADEMIC SENATE
Meeting of November 11, 2015
(Please note location of meeting)
University Religious Center, Room 108
835 W. 34th Street, 90089-0751
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Present: M. Apostolos, Y. Bar-Cohen, D. Brabham, T. Brun, M. Burgos, P. Cannon, J. Chisum, R. Chung, G. Clark, E. Collins, B. Danner, R. Davila, R. Garet, H. Greenwald, B. Jansson, R. Labaree, R. Lonergan, E. McCann, A. Ouellette, S. Palmer, J. Parr, C. Resnik, P. Rosenbloom, D. Ruddell, K. Servis, S. Shroyer, J. Silvester, R. Smith, J. Steele, B. Stiles, N. Stoubis, C. Truhan, J. West (alternate for J. Cain), W. Ziebis

Absent: S. Curran, D. Elliott, B. Girandola, F. Habeeb, A. Hancock, R. Jubran, J. Kagan, R. Paulson, M. Pensavalle, S. Rajagopalan, A. D. Renteln, C. Wang, R. Watanabe

Guests: M. Eshaghian, K. Howell, E. Johnson, M. Levine, L. Macchia, M. Nichol, M. Quick, Z. Sweeney, L. Unterman, C. Zachary

Call to order – Ginger Clark, Academic Senate President, 2:05 pm

Dialogue with the Provost

Provost Quick referenced the recent campus climate challenges at the University of Missouri and Yale University and a forthcoming memo from his office that will address the challenges at USC in terms of where the university has been and where it is heading, including allocated monies, recommended changes to Deans, and naming of provost office personnel responsible for access and opportunity. Provost Vice President for Global Initiatives Anthony Bailey could be invited to visit the Senate to discuss USC’s new “Bovard College,” which is designed to expand access as well and demonstrate USC’s desire to be a good community partner.

In addition, he discussed a recent memo announcing a new Task Force which will focus on additional opportunities to think about partner hires and how the university can better support such hires, though they are complicated. These efforts will be Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs Elizabeth Graddy’s priority.

He also discussed the recently launched Strategic Planning process, which will focus on themes he has identified as “wicked problems:” USC Value, Access and Opportunity and announced a forthcoming joint statement from the Provost’s Office, Academic Senate, and the Presidents of the Undergraduate and Graduate Student Governments on sustainability.

Updates from the Chair of the Employee Benefits Committee

Mike Nichol, Chair, USC Employment Benefits Committee and Lisa Macchia, Assistant Vice President for University Health Plans visited to review the changes in health insurance coverage, which have been prompted by two primary considerations: cost (e.g. the vision plan, which will be separated from the USC Network plan) and the Affordable Care Act. All plans have changed in some way so faculty are encouraged to look at their plans during the open enrollment period. The employee website dealing with health insurance has recently been improved as well.

48 **Encouraging Schools to Reconsider RTPC titles and Track Qualifications**

49 Senate President Ginger Clark reviewed a draft memo for distribution encouraging schools to
50 reconsider RTPC titles and track qualifications. Faculty Councils are encouraged to go back and
51 review titles – e.g. the use of parentheses in titles to review the reasons for retaining these
52 signifiers of distinction among faculty, per the recent changes due to the Senate resolution. Senate
53 members are encouraged to email Ginger with any thoughts. The memo will also be referred to the
54 Faculty Handbook Committee for review to see if revisions to the handbook are needed.

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56 **Faculty & Staff Scholarship Fund**

57 The Caldwell scholarship fund was discussed at a faculty retirement luncheon; it used to be funded
58 by faculty and staff who wanted to help kids in the neighborhoods surrounding USC to be able to
59 afford to attend USC. Should we extend this and/or share it with current faculty and staff? If the
60 fund was a part of the Academic Senate it might be better supported, and would be a good
61 opportunity, perhaps in partnership with the Good Neighbors Campaign/Fund through USC
62 Government and Civic Engagement. Senate members are encouraged to email Ginger with any
63 thoughts.

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65 **Announcements**

66 The Senate is looking for a better meeting space with room for all 40 people plus guests of Senate
67 meetings next semester.

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69 The Provost-Senate retreat is Feb. 12th and 13th, 2016 and will be held at the Westin Bonaventure
70 Hotel in Downtown, LA.

71 Respectfully submitted,

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73 Ange-Marie Hancock, Ph.D.

74 Secretary General of the Academic Senate

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