Academic Senate  
Meeting of November 20, 2013  
University Club, Scriptorium Room

MINUTES


Absent: J. Barnes, P. Cannon, G. Clark, P. Conti, A. Crigler, S. Curran, Y. DeClerck, A. Ouellette, R. Paulson, P. Riley, D. Ruddell, S. Sanudo-Wilhelmy, N. Staudt, E. Webb, R. Weisberg,


President Chuck Gomer called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm:

A tribute was paid to Dennis Dougherty, former USC Senior Vice President for Finance and CFO who passed away recently; a moment of silence was held.

1. Dialogue with Vice Provost Michael Quick

We want to work together in partnership with Academic Affairs and residential faculty to inject more academic rigor into the residence halls. One of the most important things is the student/faculty ratio – we want it to be as low as possible – a measure of our ‘inefficiency’.

Arts and humanities are a major theme at USC. We have 5,000 undergrads that have a major or a minor in one of the arts schools. We also just completed a merger with the Pacific Asia Museum.

Gene Bickers and Steve Lamy will be heading up the third committee on the new GE curriculum. The first committee made suggestions on the structure, number of courses and the notion of moving beyond Dornsife to include the arts and quantitative skills. The second committee was charged with figuring out the description of the new categories. The third committee will roll up its sleeves and figure out how to make it work. We want a full roll out in F2015. They will determine what classes are offered in each category, how many seats and how to administer an arts experience to 18,000 undergraduates.

The provost has mandated that she would like to have her operation undergo periodic reviews, to be as lean and mean as possible, and find savings to put back into the academic mission of the university. As a result she is reviewing each subsection of her office. Last year Student Affairs was examined and found a way to reduce the budget by 6.5%. This year the Libraries are being reviewed and faculty could have a big role to play. What is the strategic direction of the Libraries?

This review process is part of a larger plan. Each school has been asked to do a review and push down their administrative costs, specifically with an eye to whether we are administratively
heavy. Each dean has been asked to take a certain percentage from administrative costs and put it towards the academic mission of the university.

After consultation with a wide variety of students, the university made a decision to go to online evaluations. We will be looking for feedback from faculty on how it went in order to make adjustments.

The post-doc program in humanities is in its 3rd year – we have had over 1000 applications for 6 positions. Of this number there is a pool of circa 300 exceptionally qualified people.

Q: Has this been a stepping stone for them to be hired as professors?
A: Yes. At least 3 turned down TT jobs to take our post-doc. The logic is that they can get a better TT position with this experience. They were worried about their tenure clocks – this allows them to get their first book out. Half who have come have left after their first year because they got TT jobs; one in history was hired by USC. The word of mouth is very good – their experiences at USC have been spectacular.

Q: What about diversity tag being dropped in GE?
A: Diversity will go to two places: 1) traditional roots – where we come from and 2) global diversity.

2. A Dialogue with Gene Bickers, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs
Vice Provost Bickers passed out a handout listing a number of programs administered centrally plus a few in schools with large undergraduate programs. Students are encouraged to submit applications for the Provost’s Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program. This year we had a record number of applications. The program awards $430,000 to fund 90-100 students. Students can be supported for consecutive terms; faculty letters of recommendation remain on file. Funding for this program has increased by a factor of 6 since 2005; it is a priority for the provost and president.

3. Approval of Minutes
The September minutes were approved with a vote of 22 approve, 0 oppose.

The October minutes were approved with two corrections by a vote of 25 approve, 0 oppose.

4. Call for Nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Service Award – Julie Nyquist
This is an award for a career of service in governance (not just through the Senate) at the local or university level. Only a faculty member can put in a nomination. Staff or an administrator can send in a backup letter. We ask for a bullet list of university service, but we also want a great story- an explanation of the reason why this service is important. Typically 2-3 awards are given out each year. Due date: March 3, 2014

5. Faculty Council Update: School of Social Work – Larry Palinkas
We currently have 3,000 students, 2,000 of which are in online MSW degree programs. We have 300 faculty, 100 full-time, 200 adjunct. Our faculty council contains 9 members – 4 TT, 1 TT junior faculty, 2 clinical faculty from the research field, 2 clinical faculty from the teaching
track. They are elected to 2 year terms, with a separate election for the chair. If the chair is TT, then the vice chair is NTT. To date we have only had one NTT faculty serve as chair. The main issue we face is the tremendous amount of growth due to the online programs. A large group of faculty decided to look at the mission as a school and develop a strategic vision that would lead to a re-organization of the school, possibly into departments or divisions. The faculty council is helping to guide the new structure and is also revision our APR process. We are looking for ways the APR can be a valuable tool for the progress of junior faculty.

6. Nominating Committee Election Results
The following members were elected:
Vicki Marx
Daniel Richter
Nick Stoubis
Alison Troupe
They will be joining these Executive Board Members: Ginger Clark, Charles Gomer, Oliver Mayer and John Silvester.

7. Announcements:
At the December meeting Sandeep Gupta will provide an opportunity to hear and discuss the results of the task force on faculty evaluations. You will receive the white paper in advance. Beth Meyerowitz will attend in place of Beth Garrett to discuss faculty affairs.
The Holiday dinner will be at the Altadena Town and Country Club on Dec. 12 – please come.

8. New Business
A discussion was held regarding the cancellation of Plan C. Several faculty feel that this is a reduction in benefits, especially at ISI.
The meeting was adjourned at 3:40pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Lucinda Carver, D.M.A.
Secretary General of the Academic Senate