Academic Senate
Meeting of October 17, 2012
University Club, Scriptorium Room
University Park Campus

MINUTES


Guests: C. Drayton, E. Garrett, M. Levine, C. Zachary

President Riley called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

1. Dialogue with Provost Elizabeth Garrett

Provost Elizabeth Garrett was introduced:
I would like to begin with a couple of announcements. First, the new Engelman Health Center will be opening on January 3, 2013 and will include a faculty/staff clinic. We have wanted to have such a clinic on campus for a long time. It is a beautiful facility and I urge you all to take advantage of it. There will be wellness programs as well as the ability to be seen by a physician.

The second item is bike safety. According to our research, the bike paths have been a positive outcome and I have been very pleased with their implementation throughout the center of campus. We are also working with the city to study off campus areas where there are bike issues. This is of even greater concern to me because the majority of the accidents are happening off campus. Specific areas include the intersection of University Ave and 30th street, Royal and Jefferson near Gate 4, among others. We are actually getting some traction with the city, so stay tuned.

Thirdly, we have had a rather challenging start of the semester with respect to some of the parties and underage drinking in the Greek system. This is of great concern to me and I know to many of you. The Greeks did self-impose restrictions on their parties and put themselves on probation. But every year we have to re-educate all students with regard to issues of sexual assault, underage drinking, anger management and taking care of one another. We will continue to implement some of the proposals we received from the task force in 2011. We are also following up when chapters or students violate the rules. We will use the student justice procedure to make sure that we follow up on problems; their leadership is working very well with us.

I hope all of you received my memo regarding residential colleges and residential faculty. We not only want to recognize the great faculty masters that we have, but also emphasize the fact that it is a great opportunity for all of use to be involved with the students. There is a great deal of space available in the residential colleges that could be used for teaching or study sessions.
I will be sending out a memo to all faculty to encourage you to be involved in the capital campaign. There are terrific opportunities to support the University Club, Good Neighbors etc. An area I would like you to consider (and talk to your colleagues about) is the support of our libraries. Faculty have a real sense of how important the libraries are to the life of the community. We are continuing to work to increase the Friends of the Libraries.

As part of the Provost Writer Series (under the aegis of Visions and Voices) I will give a book to the library at each event in honor of the series. The way this works is that we will take an old book from the library, renovate it and re-present it in a commemorative fashion. (This is a terrific gift opportunity, by the way.)

Finally there are two academic issues:

1. We are about to kick off our new International Artists Program, which will bring in some the very best students from Asia, India, South America to join our elite arts programs. They will have their own relationship with each other and a sense of community forever. This program is designed to create a cadre of great artists linked to USC in a profound way. This underscores our commitment to the arts and we look forward to having our first class in the fall.

2. Thank you all for the great input we received on the GE changes. We received input from more than 242 faculty and students. There were some unifying themes that we saw throughout the process that we will be addressing together with the committee. The committee wants to do a better job of articulating the vision behind the GE requirement. Those of us within the academy know profoundly why it is so important to have the kind of breadth in the humanities, the arts and the social sciences that a strong GE education provides. It is simply not possible to be a truly educated individual by only taking courses in one’s field.

We believe that the vast majority of the GE curriculum will be taught by professors in the Dornsife College. There has been some question about the role of NTT faculty. Beginning with my tenure, we now allow full-time NTT faculty to teach GE courses – and that policy will continue. At this point Dornsife has made recommendations regarding the full-time NTT faculty who will teach these courses based on the quality of teaching. However, we believe that it is important that the GE courses not be taught by full-time NTT faculty alone. We tell parents that the GE courses will be taught by our best faculty and will often and primarily taught by TT faculty. It is important to me that it is also open to NTT – we want the best teachers possible and will continue that policy going forward. We will begin implementing the new GE curriculum in the fall.

President Riley requested that Provost Garrett address the London Global Conference:

These have been held every other year, previously in Asia. While we are leading institution in the Pacific Rim, we need to keep presence in all continents in an effort to concretely demonstrate our connections to all parts of the world. 180 people attended, including alums from all over (some from U.S.), from the Mideast and Europe, and we received a great deal of great press throughout Europe. The keynote speaker was Member of Parliament Jack Straw. Other prominent panelists included Manuel Castells, John Eatwell, David King (one of the world’s leading experts on sustainability) Pip McCrostie, and M. Hashem Pesaran. The two hour panel, brilliantly moderated by John Eatwell was amazing and I believe is available online.

Q: Did David King get more specific regarding sustainability and the University?
A: No – it was really about the global economy.

Q: What is the University doing about getting students registered to vote?
A: I don’t really know – Michael Jackson would be the one to ask about this. The good news is that the Governor has approved same day voter registration for elections following this one. There has been a great effort to get students to be engaged and to vote.

Q: Have you considered in the review of the libraries the status of the HSC? Does it need to be upgraded, especially electronically?

A: HSC libraries are not a separate entity – they report to Dean Catherine Quinlan. We have made special expenditures to the library, some of which benefit HSC. Vice President Hall is working closely with Dean Quinlan and the HSC libraries. The HSC has not faced different issues than those faced overall. The main problem is that cost of acquisitions far outpaces the rate of inflation and the rate of tuition. One my main priorities has been ensuring that the libraries have additional sources of revenue. Libraries are fully funded by Allocated Central Cost.

Q: I have two students going through USC. One is in the Thornton School and found an instant small community. The other, in Dornsife, has had a harder time finding such a community. It seems we do a really good job at this with some of our students but not all.

A: At least one of the GE courses should be a small class. GE’s should not be ‘throw away’ courses; an Art History GE course changed my life. The objective is to get students to think differently and thereby enhance their lives. We can help create a greater sense of community through the residential colleges.

President Riley asked the Provost to provide a quick recap of the MOOC discussion that presented to the deans:

A: President Nikias’ memo is the official statement regarding this. He has made it clear that we are not joining consortiums. We do not put the same thing (for which we charge tuition) out on the internet, free of cost.

Q: Who is the ‘go to’ person regarding copyright issues, etc?

A: The dean of the school who works with the General Counsel’s office. A lot is changing. Many of these policies are on the faculty portal. We want to think of ways to use technology to increase visibility and are eager for your input on this. However I also want to underscore that we will never put our undergraduate courses online, despite the fact that we are interested in seeing how technology can enhance our teaching. The Socratic method is still very effective and students need to learn to pay attention.

2. Approval of September Senate Meeting Minutes

A Q&A omission was noted for the September minutes. They will be duly amended and re-submitted for approval together with the October minutes at the 11/28 meeting.

3. Nominating Committee Election

President Riley called for nominations from the floor but none were submitted.

4. Call for Nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Service Award

Professor Nyquist put forth a call for nominations for the Distinguished Faculty Service Award. All four members of this year’s task force have won this award in the past. It is expected that recipients will give more service by helping with selection of new awardees. Nominations are due by 5pm on March 2; reminders will be sent out in the meantime. Please get the word out via the Faculty Councils – think about unsung heroes. Please don’t wait until January – nominate now.

5. Announcements

President Riley announced that Pat Haden will attend the January meeting. His office wants to know in advance about potential questions. One possibility is how residential colleges could be involved.

It was suggested that it might be helpful to have Ilee Rhimes address the Senate about the status of ITS, a very fluid and dynamic service.
It was also noted that the central University email system is now viewed as obsolete. One option is the transition to a 3rd party system. A committee has been set up regarding this matter and any ideas or suggestions should go to President Riley.

6. New Business

Concerns were raised about ongoing off campus bike problems, especially on Adams where the crosswalk is very dark near the former Christian Science Church. There is a need for increased pedestrian security.

7. Update on New Security around Campus – DPS Chief Drayton

Chief Drayton began by addressing the ongoing discussion regarding bicycle safety. It is clear that the pedestrian always has the right of way. The understanding of our students, however, is sometimes another thing altogether.

DPS currently has 281 personnel. These include 108 Public Safety Officers (who carry guns and can arrest people), 147 Campus Security Officers and 16 Public Safety Campus Officers and 10 supporting positions. There are also 34 Security Ambassadors – people wearing yellow jackets on street corners who are typically placed in areas where crime has occurred in the past.

USC has a Memo of Understanding with the LAPD and is under the provisions of the Clery Act, which requires that all colleges and universities that participate in federal financial aid programs keep and disclose information about crime on and near their respective campuses. We are required to apply specific guidelines regarding crime locations and publish an annual report, which is available to students and employees. The statistics are published by the Dept. of Education. Violations of the Clery Act are now at $35K per violation; some universities have been fined millions of dollars as a result. We track all of our numbers with the LAPD. According to Clery statistics in the PAC 12, UCLA had the highest crime rate, followed by Cal, then Washington, then USC. These statistics are available at http://capsnet.usc.edu/dps/CrimeStats.cfm

There is a misperception that all of our students are rich. There has been a slight rise in crime, which is mostly happening off campus. The Clery Act is very specific on geography and covers certain areas. The murders of our two Chinese students were outside of these designated areas. The monitored area around the UPC has been divided into quadrants designating highest crime probability in order to achieve optimal response time and best DPS/LAPD coverage. (Chief Drayton displayed maps outlining these areas during various hours.)

We have installed 24 license plate recognition cameras around UPC. If someone comes to this neighborhood with a wanted car we can track it; we log over a million reads per month. This technology assisted us in solving the two murders.

Only 7 crimes were reported as HSC in 2011. HSC is safe because the juvenile detention center is there. However areas outside the campus can be dangerous.

Q: Why is there no response area in the quadrant around Vermont and Exposition. Should this be revisited?
A: We have done so with LAPD. We would need to add personnel to cover area. Most of our students live north of campus.

Q: After the murders, my understanding was that the patrol area is being increased. Is that correct?
A: No it is not. As a result of the murders, we have added more DPS mobile patrol officers and more campus cruisers within the patrol areas. 15 minutes is our target response time. Also LAPD has added two extra patrol cars at USC’s expense to patrol during dark hours.
Q: Have you looked into video surveillance systems used in London?
A: We have 72 Video Patrol Cameras using wireless mesh technology. We can remotely pan, tilt and zoom cameras via radio to see what is going on. The main crime occurring on the UPC campus is theft. There is much more crime off campus and that is where we are focusing our efforts.

Q: What about a faculty member who has a mentally unstable student coming to campus with a gun in their backpack? Are there early recognition systems? Cameras that can follow and help locate such a person?
A: We want to be more proactive than that. Tell us in advance if you have an unstable student. It is important to communicate. We have stopped students in the past with guns and bad intentions. We have people on the faculty and student aides available to interface in such situations.

Q: What are the Ambassadors doing there? They don't appear to be there 24/7.
A: They are there from 12noon to 4am 6 days a week. It is dead on the UPC campus on Sunday. The targets are not there.

In DPS people are constantly monitoring all camera feeds 24/7. All 72 camera feeds fit onto one wall and we use video analytics to help identify things in the distance. Color is used during the day, B&W at night. We have access-controlled systems in 16 buildings at HSC and 11 at UPC.

We also have concerns about the Metro station on Exposition. The Metro Line itself is policed by the LA County Sheriff, but we want to put cameras around that area. We have had at least two incidents and were able to apprehend the individuals.

One of the main problems is that Los Angeles is under-policed. We have 10,000 cops; New York has 37,000.

Gates 3 and 5 are going open to 24 hour access. We need to do a better job of screening people coming in after hours.

Q: Would you explore having an ID check? The gates are very porous.
A: I don't know. This is being explored by a committee, but again, we believe the problems are not on the center of campus.

Q: How much of this is specific crime mapping information is being shared with students? Do they know of crime statistics in specific areas when making decisions regarding apartments, etc.?
A: No. The whole purpose of this quadrant-based crime fighting strategy could be defeated if passed around by students.

President Riley closed the meeting at 4:08pm by inviting anyone interested in serving on the Provost Committee on Strategic Transformation to come see her.

Respectfully submitted,

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