

1 Academic Senate
2 Meeting of October 16, 2013
3 Center for Health Professions Building, Room 102
4 Health Sciences Campus
5
6

7 **MINUTES**
8

9 **Present:** M. Apostolos, R. Ben-Ari , D. Blaine, B. Brown, P. Cannon, E. Collins, G. Clark, C. Daley, D.
10 Davies, R. Davila, B. Edwards, L. Fetters, C. Gomer, H. Greenwald, J. Kagan, J. Kunc, P. Liebig, M.
11 Marx, G. Miller, S. Mosley, M. Nichol, V. Regnier, D. Richter, P. Riley, M. Safonov, J. Silvester, W. Wolf
12

13 **Absent:** J. Barnes, P. Burch, L. Carver, P. Conti, A. Crigler, S. Curran, R. Davila, Y. DeClerck, O. Mayer,
14 K. Murphy, A. Ouellette, L. Palinkas, S. Palmer, R. Paulson, P. Rosenbloom, D. Ruddell, S. Sanudo-
15 Wilhelmy, M. Schroeder, N. Staudt, E. Webb, R. Weisberg
16

17 **Guests:** E. Garrett, K. Howell, M. Levine, L. Macchia, P. Siegel, K. Howell
18

19 Provost report
20

21 Pleased to report Arie Warshel has been awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry.
22

23 Football game on a school day went very well. One incident on the row was handled by
24 DPS.
25

26 Discussion of changes to GE

27 Limited access to other schools

28 Tags/themes: student expected to have a class in these categories

29 Website to include learning objectives

30 Advancing scholarship in Humanities/Arts/Sciences

31 Internal grant program reviewed

32 Beth Meyerowitz looked at ASHES and changed it

33 Full and Associates sabbatical TT and NTT

34 Newly promoted Associates, T and NTT

35 Grant writing mentorship program, T and NTT

36 Help junior faculty to think about applying for

37 fellowships in their field and mentor them

38 advice been helpful, e.g. rephrasing for arts colleagues, expanding target
39 group to newly minted full profs, expanded grant mentorship to senior faculty to enter
40 new field of inquiry, also to clarify evaluation process for NTT
41

42 Introduction of Vice Provost for Information Technology Services Administration and
43 Chief Information Officer, Pete Siegel

44 partnership with faculty most important in providing resources

45 committee on info resources working with him to advise him on tech policies

46 affecting “academic matters”—a broad charge but crucial in determining how to spend
47 resources over time, e.g. informatics

48 going to move to having a formal liaison from each school so there's someone to
49 call to champion faculty issues re technology
50 also embarking on a strategic plan tied to the USC strategic vision—no reason to
51 isolate tech from goals, pillars of strategic vision. Not about ITS as organization, but
52 about info services at USC, partnership with schools and how we can work together.
53 Exciting, also hard, since there needs to be real plan
54
55 Informatics building on driving forces of 21 century; initiative tremendous opportunity
56 for USC. Such range of extraordinary research and teaching scholarship here, we can
57 only be successful. From gaming, security, digital humanities, and beyond. We are
58 ready to compete with Stanford, Cornell, UCLA, and their emerging initiatives and in
59 fact be successful in our niche
60 1. transforming education for a rapidly changing world; helping faculty lead in
61 new directions and getting what they do in their research to the teaching environment
62 2. creative scholarship with consequences
63 3. connecting the individual to the world: national and global networking, using
64 USC through NSF infrastructure from USC to China, we can shape what they develop
65
66 high performance networking infrastructure: one of the first campuses to use this
67 capability for real science and scholarship between institutions. Not just demos.
68
69 Fifth fastest academic supercomputer in the world, enabling top-notch research to help
70 get those grants
71
72 We support 110 research groups in a variety of disciplines, computing of course but
73 Shoah also, humanities using high speed computing
74
75 Earthquake consortium, Nobel prize winner uses these computing resources, etc.
76
77 Also important to be a destination campus for that next generation of Nobel prize
78 winners—we have the resources to become that campus
79
80 Digital repository can be more agile but this initiative leverages Shoah to solve problems
81 having nothing to do with the original initiative—many other users involved, medicine,
82 humanities, film, all using this repository, where technology problems that need solving
83 are getting solved
84
85 Also what other areas might we be able to support faculty? Big data, informatics, please
86 let me know how to provide support for those grants you are writing
87
88 John Silvester gained us admission via a large grant into NSF club
89
90 Big data is about size yes but also storage technology; statistical algorithms fall apart;
91 research topic about how to get through cross-discipline problems. Not about storage and
92 terabytes but intellectual capacity
93

94 Emphasis must be on partnerships, faculty, deans, schools, experts, students and with
95 other institutions
96

97 q. historical records are an area of concern. It's difficult to find academic records, history
98 of schools. Preservation is difficult as there's no physical space but could be archived
99 electronically. System needed so as to not lose this information.
100

101 a. transformation from physical to electronic data difficult. Shoah foundation looking at
102 how to maintain data over 100 years. Requires library expertise on metadata.
103

104 q. the GE discussion is ongoing. Sustainability not one of our outstanding areas.
105 Suggestion from undergrads and grad government, since education is the issue in
106 sustainability, the GE should require a course in this area
107

108 a. the discussion is over about category/themes and cannot be added. But classes that
109 take on issues of sustainability can be done in interesting ways, in humanities, social
110 sciences, natural sciences. Global questions, climate, etc, could fit one of the themes
111

112 q. it depends on how you look at the issue. Nature is not a sub-category. As leaders of
113 the next generations, we need to get them all aware of what they are not aware of. Do we
114 as a university say we are going to do something about it or are we going to stay
115 decentralized? Are there themes that include these issues?
116

117 a. yes there's room across the categories. Students are also well informed on
118 sustainability. Committees decided and provost has accepted these themes. This
119 framework is not going to change.
120

121 q. The USC webpage is handled by ITS?
122

123 a. it is from communications.
124

125 q. we wanted to see all of the opportunities at USC on the web page, theater, etc, without
126 having to search. We would like to see a calendar of events.
127

128 a. yes there is support for this. It's a challenge due to the number of events and is a
129 logistical rather than philosophical issue.
130

131 q. are you and ISD doing stock taking of basic services to faculty and students?
132

133 a. system is beyond its capacity and we are taking steps to implement a new one. First
134 we want to know when there is a problem. ITS directors need to know so that everyone
135 else can know. We are past that phase and now need to have a way to get that
136 information out to all. Third of course is not having it break as much.
137

138 q. in line with the points about big data does not match algorithms, there's lots of work
139 on campus to supplement current tools, PYTHON programs, other software, and so it's
140 all piecemeal and doesn't all interface together. We should coordinate.

141
142 Approval of minutes suspended until next meeting

143
144 Update senate committee nominating membership. Four members from Senate needed.
145 Please nominate officers for the nominating committee. There will be an email reminder.

146
147 Update from Keck Faculty Council President Vicki Marx. Overview of varied emphases
148 of campus, teaching, research, seeing patients. Council began there in 2009. Governance
149 difficult due to the disparate nature of Keck. Peter Conti organized new council, third
150 academic year of implementation. We make sure all constituencies are represented and
151 all faculty are eligible to serve. Three members rolled over each year. Voting
152 participation modest but growing. CHLA brought in and has a large presence.

153
154 Medical school strategic plan was gone over and matched with USC strategic plan (which
155 came out later). Also developed a way for faculty to have input in dean review process.
156 Five chairs reviewed, council had significant input into surveys for those reviews.
157 Council reviewed the dean's final reports and made recommendations. Enormous faculty
158 participation. 61% response. On a building trend in getting the faculty to see themselves
159 as a unit.

160
161 Eating options improved on HSC. Dialogue between HSC and CH improved. Input into
162 new research space policy too. We provide representation on promotions and tenure
163 committee. And we have had semi-annual town halls. Small but well received programs
164 so far. Medical student quality increasing.

165
166 q. does the dean attend these meetings?

167
168 a. no he is not a part of it. The Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs acts ex-officio and
169 provides admin support. We have met with him but he's not a part of the council.

170
171 q. would it be effective if he were a part of the council?

172
173 a. no.

174
175 q. Keck is under a new governance document. Engineering is forming one. How is
176 yours different from the previous one?

177
178 a. faculty representation was through an assembly, large unwieldy set-up. Dean had no
179 investment in it. We modeled ourselves on what other schools have done. Have a
180 smaller body, the whole faculty can vote, we have relationship with dean through the vice
181 dean, we have definitive roles in reviews. We are meaningful to the dean. He values us
182 as liaison. It's much more collaborative.

183

184 q. administrators as part of the faculty council needs to be reviewed. In some schools the
185 dean has joined to a degree and has an influence on the council in that school. There's a
186 gamut and that could present problems.

187
188 q. council has influence on promotion and tenure?

189
190 a. that committee has a council member on it who joins in the recommendations to the
191 dean.

192
193 q. in the chair reviews, what kind of information did you present to the dean? How
194 strong were your recommendations? Were they valued?

195
196 a. we looked at all of the surveys and we pointed out trends. We are advisory to the
197 dean.

198
199 Health Benefits update

200
201 Mike Nichols: relatively few benefit changes, only premium changes for Anthem and
202 Kaiser. There's a new navigator program for in-network appointments. Also trying to
203 get UPC faculty and staff aware of Engemann clinic. Also the acquisition of Verdugo
204 Hosp will offer tier one physicians there. Disabled dependent language will be added to
205 the website. Vision co-pays going up slightly. Relatively modest changes.

206
207 Four benefit tiers: rates adjusted to approx an 8% raise. There are a number of provisions
208 in ACA that will impact large employers. There's a tax on all the covered lives at USC.
209 This substantially impacts USC. All three plans have a 1 1/2 % to pay for this
210 component. Also Plan C is affected by ACA. This plan is for employees who get their
211 health care from another employer. Now USC must certify that the other plan meets the
212 minimums of health care. So the committee recommended dropping Plan C. Also ACA
213 requires that all plans have minimum value. Our plans meet that criteria but we don't
214 know about plans from a spouse.

215
216 q. if you have two plans, comparing those plans, how can we tell which plan to make
217 primary?

218
219 a. primary and secondary issue is that the plan you have had the longest would be
220 primary

221
222 q. assuming someone is covered by their spouse's plan, is there anything they have to do
223 to meet the requirements of the USC plan?

224
225 a. you will be asked to sign something saying you elect not to be covered

226
227 q. what is plan C?

228

229 a. for people who have their primary coverage elsewhere, you get free dental, free vision,
230 and prescription co-pay
231
232 q. what is the impact on employee contribution from these premium raises?
233
234 a. about 11%
235
236 q. what is the fraction of employees on plan C?
237
238 a. about 1400, half of whom get it through a spouse, the other 700 get it from elsewhere
239
240 q. can you comment about the changes in what the university pays and the co-pay given
241 that Keck now sets the rates? There was a co-pay change for the better a few months
242 ago. What impact has that had?
243
244 a. changes in co-pays across all three plans have not happened. The practice of medicine
245 in the hospital has to adhere to certain regulations. So office visits are less for example
246 because they no longer include rent and malpractice. But there is a facility charge not
247 paid by the patient but by the plan.
248
249 q. does the provision changes in lifetime cap and pre-existing conditions of ACA affect
250 our plans in terms of eligibility or premiums?
251
252 a. most plans had already eliminated the lifetime cap. When you are hired you are
253 eligible for health care regardless of pre-existing conditions. The preventive care should
254 result in a 400k increase for the university.
255
256 q. you quoted premium increases. Are these due to the ACA?
257
258 a. one for sure is 1 ½% but no other information on that is available.
259
260 q. what percentage of employees take advantage of flexible spending?
261
262 a. smaller than you would think. And ACA cut it to \$2500. But people don't understand
263 it.
264
265 q. for retirees, the rumor is it will be cut
266
267 a. that might be a confusion about the retiree stipend. It's a different issue.
268
269 ACA raises the question about people retiring before medicare-eligible age; now they can
270 and not have a problem if there's a pre-existing condition.
271
272 Announcements
273

274 Save the Date: February 28 and March 1, 2014 for the joint Provost/Senate Retreat, venue
275 will be determined at a later date. Theme to be Globalization, both in teaching and
276 research.
277
278 Establishment of Childcare Advisory Committee includes Academic Senate
279 representative. Stacy Geck will be this year's representative.
280
281 Senate recognition of the 2013 Nobel Prize Winner, Distinguished Professor of
282 Chemistry, Arieh Warshel
283
284 No new business
285
286 adjournment
287
288 Respectfully submitted,
289
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291 Diana Blaine
292 Member-at-Large of the Academic Senate
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