Procedure:
1. A motion should be typed or hand-printed.
2. A motion should first be offered to the Executive Board for review and advice on editing and parliamentary implication.
3. If changes are necessary, the motion should be recopied on another form. Amendments may be indicated in the margin or on the reverse of this form.

Proposal on Rigor and Transparency in the Conduct of Research at USC

WHEREAS, The topic of reproducibility in research has gained progressive attention in both the academic community and media in recent years, and

WHEREAS, This has resulted in a focus on the need for improved rigor and transparency in research while raising concerns regarding investment of significant resources in research that cannot be reproduced, and

WHEREAS, Although some propose that research that is not reproducible can still be accurate, the concerns regarding irreproducible research are difficult to dispel, and the importance of improving rigor and transparency in research is inescapable, and

WHEREAS, Funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science Foundation (NSF) have brought attention to the matter of reproducibility and changed their policies to address it. In addition, scientific journals (including high-profile journals such as Science and Nature) have also taken steps to revise their review and acceptance policies to address this issue, and

WHEREAS, Academic centers have an important role to play in fostering an environment of rigorous and transparent research, and

WHEREAS, USC can be an international leader among academic institutions in assuring rigor and transparency in research.

Therefore, Be it RESOLVED, That the Academic Senate endorses the report on Rigor and Transparency in the Conduct of Research at USC submitted by the University Research Committee. The Senate recognizes that this report serves as a starting point in addressing a topic that is complex and difficult, but that thoughtful consideration of this topic is vital to raising awareness of the importance of rigor and transparency in conducting research at USC. We also recognize that the recommendations in this report will have different levels of relevance and applicability across different disciplines and types of research, and should not be applied in disciplines where they are not warranted. Through this report, we aim to begin to create an innovative institutional framework through which we raise the quality and impact of research produced at USC. By so doing, USC can lead the broader research community in maintaining the public trust in research investments and demonstrate that academic research produces results that are novel, impactful, and accurate.

Resolution Number: 15/16-05       Motion by: Executive Board
Date: April 13, 2016      (No second required when moved by committee)

To be presented at the Senate meeting on April 20, 2016

Action taken: Resolution passed.