

1 **ACADEMIC SENATE**
2 **Resolution 15/16-05**

3 Procedure:

- 4 1. A motion should be typed or hand-printed.
5 2. A motion should first be offered to the Executive Board for review and advice on editing and parliamentary 6
6 implication.
7 3. If changes are necessary, the motion should be recopied on another form. Amendments may be indicated in the
8 margin or on the reverse of this form.
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10 **Proposal on Rigor and Transparency in the Conduct of Research at USC**

11 WHEREAS, The topic of reproducibility in research has gained progressive attention in both the academic
12 community and media in recent years, and
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14 WHEREAS, This has resulted in a focus on the need for improved rigor and transparency in research while
15 raising concerns regarding investment of significant resources in research that cannot be reproduced, and
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17 WHEREAS, Although some propose that research that is not reproducible can still be accurate, the concerns
18 regarding irreproducible research are difficult to dispel, and the importance of improving rigor and
19 transparency in research is inescapable, and
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21 WHEREAS, Funding agencies such as the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Science
22 Foundation (NSF) have brought attention to the matter of reproducibility and changed their policies to
23 address it. In addition, scientific journals (including high-profile journals such as *Science* and *Nature*) have
24 also taken steps to revise their review and acceptance policies to address this issue, and

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

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

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

39 Resolution Number: 15/16-05

Motion by: Executive Board

40 Date: April 13, 2016

(No second required when moved by committee)

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42 To be presented at the Senate meeting on April 20, 2016
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44 Action taken: Resolution passed.
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