ACADEMIC SENATE
Meeting of September 17, 2014
(Please note location of meeting)
UPC Engemann Student Health Center, Room 101/102
(near the corner of Jefferson and Vermont)
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

MINUTES


Guests: M. Eshaghian, E. Garrett, J. Jacobs, M. Levine, L. Neinstein, C. Yu Yu

Call To Order: John Silvester, Academic Senate President 2:06 PM

Remembrance and Moment of Silence for:
a) Warren Bennis, University Professor and Distinguished Professor of Business Administration, Marshall School and an internationally recognized authority on leadership – by Kevin Murphy
b) John Choma, professor of Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering, Viterbi School - by Martin Gundersen
c) Michael Preston, former USC vice provost for strategic initiatives, professor emeritus and former chair of political science at the Dornsife College by Ange-Marie Hancock

Presentation on Engemann Student Health Center
Dr. Lawrence Neinstein, Executive Director of Engemann
Dr. Neinstein gave a brief introduction and welcome to Engemann Student Health Center, the location of today’s meeting. He also presented health trends for emerging young adults who make up the bulk of the student population at USC.

Dialogue with the Provost
Elizabeth Garrett, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs
Provost Garrett provided updates on the naming ceremony for the Occupational Therapy department and the 2014 First-Year Class, with attention to this year’s outstanding yield (3,096 first year students). She then introduced Christina YuYu, the new director of the USC Asia Pacific Museum in Pasadena, to present the history of the museum, discuss upcoming plans for the institution and how the faculty can get involved with current and new initiatives.

Introduction of the New Academic Senate
John Silvester, President
Members identified their school affiliations and role(s) served in association with the Senate.
Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes
Ange-Marie Hancock, Secretary General

Approval of Meeting Minutes for March, 2014 Meeting (recorder: Lucinda Carver)

Approved by a vote of 19 for; 1 opposed; 5 abstentions

Approval of Meeting Minutes for May 2014 Meeting (recorder: Diana Blaine)

Approved by a vote of 17 for; 1 opposed; 6 abstentions

Review of the Annual Planning Retreat of the Academic Senate

John Silvester, President

President Silvester reviewed the August 20th agenda and outcomes of the retreat, which was held at the San Antonio Winery. The agenda included the following items: a) Faculty Governance at USC b) Wellness and Safety on Campus and c) Analytics and the University. We will look to have a speaker to present on learning analytics later on during the academic year from the Center for Scholarly Technology, as no one was available for the retreat date. CST is looking to have an initiative on learning analytics.

Next he specifically reviewed the results of the breakout sessions and the votes regarding the priorities among the “Hot Topics” generated during the break-out sessions and from a previous email to the faculty senate listserve (around 20-30 email responses). Rebecca Lonergan coordinated the suggestions into more general categories for voting over lunch so that retreat participants could vote their priorities during the afternoon of the retreat. Full results of voting at the retreat were distributed electronically with today’s (17 September 2014) meeting agenda as a related document by Connie for reference.

Four top issues were discussed: 1) Non-Tenure Track and Part-Time Faculty Issues. Silvester discussed the possible creation of a Task Force to understand Part-Time Issues separate from Non-Tenure Track Faculty, in conjunction with what the provost’s office is already doing.

2) Community Security and Safety – this would include the bicycle safety issue, along with what the university is doing more broadly to addressing these issues. The Faculty Handbook committee will also take a look at the new affirmative consent law passed by the state of California that will change sexual assault and rape consent standards to make sure our policies are consistent with the new law.

3) Faculty Morale. Many of these issues are more properly framed as “Part Time Issues,” which has already been discussed, but one more universal concern is creating opportunities for cross-school interactions to build collegial interdisciplinary communities.

4) Sustainability. We have identified this issue, long championed by Jeremy Kagan, as the subject for the first “mini-retreat,” half-day sessions during each semester to dive deeper on certain topics. This mini-retreat will be held on Friday, November 7, 2014 from 12-5 pm.

Please send President Silvester any comments or feedback on the retreat if you have them.

Acknowledgment of Receipt of Senate Task Force and Committee Reports

John Silvester, President

President Silvester asked the Senate to read over all of the reports provided by all of the task forces and committees and to get feedback back to either the Executive Board or the Committee Chairs by
the time of the next meeting (October 15, 2014). The next Senate meeting will present an
opportunity to ensure that a formal acknowledgment of receipt of all reports from 2013-2014 can be
enacted.

Announcements:
The next meeting will also feature an election of four members for this year’s Nominating
Committee, who will join two members elected from the Executive Board, and John Silvester and
Ginger Clark, as current and incoming Senate president, respectively.
The next joint Provost-Academic Senate Retreat will be on January 31, 2015 at The Ritz Carlton
Hotel, LA Live. It will be a one-day rather than a two-day event.

Respectfully submitted,

Ange-Marie Hancock, Ph.D.
Secretary General of the Academic Senate