ACADEMIC SENATE
Meeting of September 30, 2015
University Religious Center, Room 108, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Draft MINUTES


Ginger Clark, Academic Senate President called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm

Nick Stoubis from the Thornton School of Music was introduced as the new Executive Board member. He replaces Andy Lakoff.

Welcome and Introductions/Role of Senators
Ginger Clark shared a revised charge to each member of the Academic Senate – that they will be asked to increase level of communications between their Faculty Council and the faculty in each of their years and also with the Senate – we would like to improve the response rates in order to make sure we are effectively representing all of the faculty and librarians in our constituency.

Dialogue with the Provost
The provost thanked Ginger and the members of the Senate for their commitment to better leveraging the university’s bandwidth on sustainability. The sustainability committee and the USC Sustainability representative were all in attendance and participated in a discussion about the committee’s recent report and the release of modest sustainability goals by the university. Senior Vice President of Administration Todd Dickey’s office will come and do a presentation in response based on what the administration has done over the summer (meeting presentation will occur at a later date).

The provost also discussed his “wicked problems” approach. Though it is easy to identify a plethora of wicked problems, this approach involves selection of four or five problems that USC can make a specific valuable impact, whether alone or through strategic alliances in partnership with others. For example, in the area of sustainability, should we create a consortium of Southern California universities around the issues of sustainability that would include most if not all the UCs, CSUs and USC in having an impact on the state, the region, etc. Identification of both opportunities that exist and barriers requiring elimination are part of this approach as well.

Proposed Resolution 15/16-01
Re: Change in Policy on Commencement of Greek Life Activities: Spring Rush
Vice President for Student Affairs Ainsley Carry framed the conversation around the resolution sitting before the Senate regarding moving Greek Rush to Spring Semester as a response that will be supported by parents and faculty alike. One of the questions to be answered is whether the school-related professional organizations (both undergraduate and graduate organizations) are actually covered by this change in policy. Motion passed unanimously.
Presentation of the Distinguished Faculty Service Award
Jerry Gates, Chair of the Department of Family Medicine at Keck School of Medicine was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Service Award by Judy Garner, Vice Dean of Keck School of Medicine.

May 2015 Minutes Approval
Minutes of the May 2015 meeting were presented for approval by Secretary General Ange-Marie Hancock. No changes were requested. Cheryl Resnik moved to approve the minutes; Rebecca Lonergan seconded. Motion passed (5 abstentions)

Poll of New NTT Designation
An informal, nonbinding poll was taken regarding a new designation for the faculty who are not on the tenure-line (tenure-track or tenured) following a brief discussion. President Clark will take the substance of the discussion back to the Executive Board and will present more information at a later date for official/formal consideration.

Announcements
- This year the Senate will change how election ballots are cast and grievance filing to allow for online submission.
- This semester, no meeting will be held at HSC due to unavailability of room
- There will be a Nominating Committee election (4 Senators) during the October 21 Senate Meeting
- The Senate meeting schedule for 2015 - 2016 is posted on the Senate website, on this page: http://www.usc.edu/academe/acsen/Calendar/meetingSchedule.htm
- The roster of Senate members and committee chairs is posted on this link: http://www.usc.edu/academe/acsen/FacultyGovernance/senateMembers.htm
- Save the Date: February 13, 2016 for the joint Provost/Senate Retreat; venue will be determined later
- The Emeriti Center has two upcoming events and has moved to share an office with the Academic Senate

ADJOURNMENT

Respectfully submitted,

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