ACADEMIC SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Meeting of April 19, 2017
University Club, 2nd Floor, Scriptorium Room
2:00 - 4:00 pm


AGENDA

Paula Cannon, Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2:05 pm and introduced the guests of the Senate.

Remembrance of John O’Brien

Paul Rosenbloom, Academic Vice President, spoke in remembrance of John O’Brien, former Executive Vice Dean and Member of the Deadlines and Leaves Committee.

“I’ve been asked to say a few words about John O’Brien, who passed away recently at the age of 48. For those of you who didn’t know him, John was a Professor of EE and Executive Vice Dean in the Viterbi School. His research was on photonics, for which he won both a Presidential Early Career Award and an NSF Career Award. He was a professor at USC nearly 20 years, but most of us knew him best through his recent work with and for the Viterbi School, which included serving on the Joint Provost/Senate Committee on Deadlines and Leaves. John was smart, thoughtful, genuine, fair, a true problem solver, and someone who really cared about the faculty and school. This included rescuing the Information Sciences Institute from the worst crisis in its 40+ year history, both before and during his year as Acting Executive Director there.

I don’t think I have ever seen a Dean cry before, but at the last Engineering Faculty Council meeting two Vice Deans broke down while talking about John. We lost a great colleague and person.”

Moment of silence was observed.

Approval of March Senate meeting draft minutes

Mike Lee, Secretary General, presented March draft minutes for discussion and approval.
Rebecca Lonergan moved to approve; Jeff Chisum seconded; 21 in favor; 0 opposed; 4 abstentions.

Report: Academic Senate Nominating Committee & Introduction of Candidates
Paul Rosenbloom, Chair, Nominating Committee and Academic Vice President, presented the candidates from the Nominating Committee.

Nominees are from 10 schools with a diversity of races, ethnicities, and gender. Candidates were introduced and given 2 minutes to introduce themselves. Candidate statements will be sent with the ballots.

Ballots will be sent out April 21st. Mailed out to you through USC regular mail. Will be due back May 2nd by 5pm to the Senate office. Completed ballots can also be returned by email to Connie Roque.

Candidate list: https://academicsenate.usc.edu/files/2016/09/Nominating-Committee-Report_Spr-2017-1.pdf

Discussion re proposed resolution on Fall Break
Students presented two meetings ago, including data that shows USC is an outlier, and data from student health services that shows more stress during peak times.

Friendly amendment:
- Replace explicit mention of “Monday/Tuesday” with “two day” break
- WHEREAS, the Academic Senate recognizes that any reduction in instructional days could create an imbalance between the fall and spring semesters that would need to be addressed, and asks that the Academic Senate be consulted in any consideration of a solution


Jeff Chisum moved to approve with friendly amendment; Rebecca Lonergan seconded; 27 in favor; 1 opposed; 2 abstentions.

Proposed Changes to the Faculty Handbook, Second Read and Vote
Jessica Parr, Co-Chair, Faculty Handbook Committee, presented the second reading of the proposed changes to the faculty handbook.

Changes since the first reading include revised language for Chapter 3 – Faculty: Academic Practices and Policies. For outside education work added examples of what was typically approved, clarified process to get approval and that pro-bono outside consulting work does not count as outside education work.

Friendly amendment was requested to include examples outside education of work that will not be approved and add clarifying language surrounding who will approve outside education work.
Proposed changes:

- Summary of proposed changes to the handbook
- Faculty handbook 2017 (redlined)

Maria Aranda moved to approve with friendly amendment; Jeff Chisum seconded; 28 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstentions.

End of Year Report from the Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Affairs Committee

Beth Meyerowitz, Chair, Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty Affairs Committee, presented her committee’s end of year report and proposal.

This was the first year for the committee with no agenda or notes from previous year. Initial focus was to identify key issues that they should address. They started with 11 and then narrowed to 5 priority issues. 4 of those concerned promotion.

Three that were included in the proposal:

- Provost’s Office be required to consult with the Academic Senate Executive Board and with appropriate Senate committees, as determined by the Executive Board, about any substantive changes in the UCAPT Manual or in tenure and promotion procedures.
- Greater clarity be provided regarding the standards for tenure and promotion
- Every faculty member who has been evaluated by UCAPT receive written feedback on his or her case

Two were considered, but not included:

- Retirement benefits and incentives to retire were also unanimously voted on to include in the proposal. Based on Executive Board guidance, issue was not included due to a lack of data
- Idea that department heads and chairs should not be on the UCAPT panels. They are currently being recused from their own units. Did not have a unanimous vote of the committee

Full proposal:

Announcements

Paula Cannon, Academic Senate President

a) The ‘End of the Year’ dinner will be held on Wednesday, May 10
   Venue: University Club, Main Dining Room, Cocktails at 5:00pm; Dinner at 6:00pm
   All Senate members, past presidents, and spouses/guests are invited.

b) The Academic Senate Annual Planning Retreat will be held on August 16, 2017 from 8:30am to 4:00pm, Venue TBA.

New Business

None stated.

Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 3:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike S. Lee
Secretary General of the Academic Senate