

1
2 **ACADEMIC SENATE**

3
4 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

5 Meeting of February 15, 2017

6 University Club, 2nd Floor, Scriptorium Room

7 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

8
9 **Present:** Y. Bar-Cohen, R. Bostic, R. Broyer (alternate for N. Burle), S. Bucher, M. Burgos, P. Cannon, J.
10 Chisum, S. Curran, R. Davila, M. Eshaghian, P. Fiss, B. Girandola, G. Giuliano, L. Hoffman, D. Isaacs (alternate
11 for J. Kagan), E. Johnson (alternate for E. Horowitz), J. Kagan, R. Labaree, M. Lee, R. Lonergan, J.
12 McLaughlin Gray, B. Meyerowitz, A. Ouellette, J. Parr, G. J. Peters, M. Polikoff (alternate for M. Pensavalle),
13 G. Ragusa, K. Rodgers, P. Rosenbloom, K. Servis, J. Steele, S. Shroyer, R. Smith, N. Sood, N. Stoubis, T.
14 Tambascia, T. Tucker, Z. Unno, D. Williams.

15
16 **Absent:** M. Apostolos, M. Aranda, S. Asgharzadeh, N. Benbassat, J. Cain, S. Daneshmand, D. Datu, G.
17 Davison, A. Goldkorn, L. Golubchik, C. Gomer, E. Horowitz, J. Israel, R. Jubran, W.M Kast, S. Palmer, D.
18 Pecchenino, R. K. Rasmussen, R. Watanabe, A. G. Wilcox.

19
20 **Guests:** G. Clark, E. Collins, M. Hrovat, M. Levine, S. Park, S. Pratt, M. Quick, E. Saucedo

21
22
23 **AGENDA**

24
25 Paula Cannon, Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2:04 pm.

26
27 **Approval of January Senate meetings and February 8 Additional Senate meeting draft minutes**

28 Mike Lee, Secretary General, presented January draft minutes for discussion and approval.

29
30 Corrections were made to the date and the attendees present at the meeting.

31
32 *Genevieve Giuliano moved to approve as corrected; Jeff Chisum seconded; 24 in favor; 0 opposed;*
33 *1 abstentions.*

34
35 February 8 special meeting notes were also presented for review. No corrections or approval of
36 notes were required.

37
38 **Update from the Nominating Committee**

39 Paul Rosenbloom, Chair, Nominating Committee and Academic Vice President, provided an
40 update from the Nominating Committee.

41
42 Committee has met in December and February. Currently have 2-3 candidates for Academic VP
43 nominations. Once have at least two committed, will focus on Administrative VP and then At
44 Large members. The nominees will be introduced at the April Senate meeting.

45
46 **Plans for joint Senate/Provost retreat**

47 Paula Cannon, Academic Senate President, provided an update on what will be covered at the

48 retreat that will take place at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel on February 17-18, 2017. Retreat will
49 focus on the progress that has been made across climate, safety and wellness.

50
51 Friday afternoon's focus will be "Progress on diversity and inclusiveness initiatives" chaired by
52 Renee Smith-Maddox from the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. This session will
53 include Shaun Harper, who will be speaking on his new USC Race and Equity Center.

54
55 Saturday early morning will focus on "First Year Student and Wellness" and will be chaired by
56 Tracy Poon Tambascia from the Rossier School of Education.

57
58 Saturday later morning will focus on "Campus Safety – Faculty Training and Resources" and will be
59 chaired by Raphael Bostic from the Sol Price School of Public Policy.

60
61 More information:
62 <https://academicssenate.usc.edu/meetings/joint-provostacademic-senate-retreat/>

63
64 **Discussion re the Fall Break**

65 Edwin Saucedo, President of Undergraduate Student Government, presented a proposal on
66 adding a Fall Break to USC's academic year.

67
68 "USC currently has the longest academic semester with the most instructional days out of all
69 semester-system universities ranked in the Top 25 in the United States. During the stretch from
70 Labor Day to Thanksgiving Break, USC students have 56 consecutive instructional days. The
71 university's counseling center has been known to be frequented at higher-than-normal rates from
72 the 8th to 10th week of school. The counseling center's evaluation of the Behavioral Health
73 Measure shows a peak in mental health crisis from fall 2012- 2016, where students scored, on
74 average, 2.58 out of 4 (Healthy is between 2.94-4.00). Data from Medical Services noticed a peak
75 in appointments that spanned between weeks 10-14, and fell after Thanksgiving break."

76
77 Spring semester has a peak of the Behavior Health Measure in the finals period, but the average
78 measure is higher at 2.8 (vs. 2.58 in the Fall midterm peak).

79
80 Proposal is to introduce a two-day Fall Break during the 8th week of classes. "Universities with
81 similar academic calendars such as Cornell University, Georgetown University, Washington
82 University in St. Louis, Vanderbilt University, Emory University, Duke University, and Rice
83 University all have at least two days off during respective midpoints of their semesters."

84
85 More information:
86 [Fall Break Initial Proposal \(3 pager\)](#) / [Fall Break Initial Proposal \(presentation\)](#)

87
88 **Dialogue with USC's Provost, Michael Quick**

89 Michael Quick, USC Provost, discussed the university's response to the immigration and travel
90 ban.

91
92 When the immigration and travel ban came out, the Office of International Services (OIS) sent out
93 emails to potentially impacted members of our community to offer assistance. The Provost then
94 followed this with a [memo](#) that went out to all of the USC community. A number of faculty have

95 been very helpful in giving him feedback on his memo. Top feedback included getting the
96 message out that the university was against the order, lack of clarity on what USC was doing to
97 communicate, and what additional resources we are providing to USC Gould Immigration Clinic.
98

99 A site has been created to consolidate communications, events, and information related to the
100 Immigration and Travel Executive Order:

101 <https://www.provost.usc.edu/information-on-the-immigration-and-travel-executive-order/>
102

103 University has provided additional funding to the Gould Student, Faculty, and Staff Immigration
104 Advice Project:

105 <http://gould.usc.edu/academics/clinical-programs/immigration-clinic/advice/>
106

107 Commencement. One of the big concerns of students impacted concerned families coming to
108 graduation. They are looking into making all ceremonies available via streaming.

109
110 International conferences. Reached out to students impacted to see if they can possibly
111 participate in international conferences using remote technologies.
112

113 Deferrals. Some students will be admitted from the impacted countries – Provost is working with
114 Dean of Admissions to work out deferrals. In process of sending out letter to all applicants that
115 we will support them.
116

117 For more information or to request assistance send email to uscprovost@usc.edu or visit:
118 <https://www.provost.usc.edu/information-on-the-immigration-and-travel-executive-order/>
119

120 **Changes to PhD Stipends**

121 Sally Pratt, Vice Provost for Graduate Programs, discussed upcoming changes to PhD stipends.
122

123 Provost and Provost council, which consists of the Deans, has decided to increase the PhD
124 stipends. A benchmark of peer and aspirational peer institutions showed an average minimum
125 stipend of \$27K. Stanford and Harvard show higher end of \$42K or higher. Argument is how to
126 be among the best in the field. Not just the average.
127

128 Stipend minimum will increase to \$26K next academic year (2017-18). Plan is to increase to \$30k
129 the year after (2018-19). This is for a 9-month stipend.
130

131 Some challenges mentioned include current research grants, where it may be hard to go back to
132 program managers and say that RA salaries going up.
133

134 Provost office will work with the schools and disciplines to make the changes happen. For more
135 information, contact Sally Pratt at pratt@usc.edu.
136

137 **Update on the University Response to the Executive Order on Immigration, and** 138 **Resolution 16/17-02:**

139 Paula Cannon presented for discussion and approval a draft resolution in response to the January
140 27, 2017 Executive Order affecting individuals from 7 countries.
141

142 Friendly amendment to add a short explanation of Pac 12 Academic Leadership Coalition that
143 states “which is a forum for faculty governance leaders of PAC-12 universities.”

144

145 *26 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions*

146

147 Resolution can be found on the Academic Senate’s resolutions page:

148 <https://academicsenate.usc.edu/documents/resolutions/>

149

150 **Plans for the End of the Year Dinner, and Announcements**

151 Paula Cannon, Academic Senate President, provided an update on the end of year dinner and
152 announcements.

153

154 Dinner will be open to spouses and will be planned for May. Date, time and venue are TBD.

155

156 **Announcements**

157 Paula Cannon, Academic Senate President

158 (a) Joint Provost/Senate Retreat is this Friday and Saturday, February 17 and 18, 2017

159 Venue: Westin Bonaventure; Agenda is attached

160 (b) The Senate meeting in March is on the 22nd (as originally scheduled)

161 Venue: HSC, Broad CRIM Center 1st floor seminar room

162

163 **New Business**

- 164 • None stated

165

166 **Adjournment**

167 Meeting was adjourned at 3:50pm

168

169 Respectfully submitted,

170

171 

172

173 Mike S. Lee

174 Secretary General of the Academic Senate