ACADEMIC SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Meeting of November 15, 2017
University Club, 2nd Floor, Scriptorium Room
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.


AGENDA

Paul Rosenbloom, Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm and introduced the guests of the Senate.

Approval of October Senate meeting draft minutes
Mike Lee, Secretary General, presented October draft minutes for discussion and approval.

Norman Hollyn moved to approve; Cheryl Resnik seconded; 20 in favor; 0 opposed; 1 abstention.

Input request from the Committee on Information Services
Brian Shepard, Co-Chair of the Committee on Information Services (CIS) provided an overview of the committee and requested feedback on information services priorities.

CIS is a joint provost/senate committee that deliberates and provides recommendations to USC Information Technology Services (ITS). The committee is small to enable it to move fast, and so is not representative of all schools. The approach they want to take to getting feedback on priorities is to survey the Senate members, who do represent all the schools.

Brian requested that senate members fill out the information services survey that will be sent out by Connie Roque to all senate members.

Survey results will be used to provide input to the USC CIO, the university technology council, the CIS, and the senate. This information will be used to prioritize the activities on larger scale issues.

Updates re Diversity and Inclusion plans, effort toward teaching excellence and effort around benchmarking RTPC salaries
Ginger Clark, Assistant Vice Provost of Academic & Faculty Affairs and Director of Center for Excellence in Teaching, provided an updates on teaching, diversity and inclusion, and salary benchmarks.
New Student Course Evaluations  
Ginger thanked the senate for their feedback on the draft course evaluations. Some of the feedback, along with student feedback, has been incorporated into the pilot version of the course evaluations. First pilot is being done this week with a second pilot in mid-Spring 2018. The new course evaluations will be used university-wide at the end of Spring 2018. This university-wide rollout will still be considered a pilot, meaning that the wording may still be changed after Spring.

Diversity & Inclusion Plans  
The Diversity & Inclusion (D&I) plans from the schools and the libraries have been received and reviewed by the Provost cabinet and the D&I council.

In support of the review, the D&I Council created a multi-point feedback template that was used across all plans to provide feedback to the schools. The feedback template is located at:  

The Provost, along with the Co-Chairs of the D&I Council Renee Smith Maddox, and Ginger Clark attended more than 20 meetings over the summer with schools to review their submission, provide feedback and answer any questions that they may have. The goal is to publish the plans to the public in May.

Teaching Excellence  
The Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET) has been working on the definition of excellence in teaching. CET will tie training and rubrics to that definition.

Benchmarking RTPC Salaries  
Ginger Clark has met with each of the Deans regarding the need for RTPC reviews for all. Challenge has been to find salary benchmarks from other schools. Some schools do not have an equivalence of Professor on the RTPC track.

Information Risk/Security  
Gus Anagnos, USC Chief Information Security Officer, provided an overview of the Secure Connected program.

The university recognized about 9 months ago that security was not being done properly at USC – it is underfunded and needs people with the right training. The Board of trustees funded a $70M 3-year program that “will elevate USC’s cybersecurity and network capabilities to meet the ever-evolving needs of our world-class university.” The program is called Secure Connected.

Its goals are to “replace and upgrade our current network infrastructure” and “to enhance cybersecurity in significant ways.” Objectives and benefits will include:

- “Improved network performance, reliability, and security through a redesign of current infrastructure.”
- “Augmented cybersecurity practices to protect data across the university, including intellectual property and personally identifiable information.”
- “Clearly defined cybersecurity responsibilities for all USC units.”
- “Secure network architecture that supports emerging technologies (e.g., cloud computing, mobile technologies).”
USC has a large volume of devices connected to the network. To give an idea of the scale of entry points to our network, we have a 66K person network with 100K+ devices.

USC has all types of data that needs to be protected, such as Personal Identifiable Information (PII), Personal Health Information (PHI), research data, financial data, and credit card data. USC is also heavily regulated via such regulations as FERPA, HIPAA, DFARS, and PCI.

Our cybersecurity strategy is to align security with the mission of the university with the goal of implementing cybersecurity that minimizes friction for users on our network. Cybersecurity components include:

- Identity and access management - understanding who is in our network and making sure they have the right access controls.
- Secure what matters - securing what data is important to us, not just the regulatory requirements.
- Sentries at the gate - security operations center to find out who is attacking us, how are they getting in, and how do we find them.
- Recover swiftly and securely – perfect security does not exist, it is more about risk mitigation, how do we respond, minimize damage, how do we prevent.

Security Operations Center – 24x7 security operations center will go live Q1 of 2018 which holistically identify and manage vulnerabilities.

Data Protection – leverage automated tools to scan communications that is moving across our networks to look for specific data types (e.g. social security numbers, credit card numbers, and clinical data). They will start testing beginning of next week.

Identity & Access Management – continue to reduce friction across the university using single sign-on. Stretch goal is to remove passwords in two years.

**Update from the Task Force on Workplace Standards and Employee Wellness**

Paul Rosenbloom provided an update on the work of the Task Force on Workplace Standards and Employee Wellness.

The task force is wrapping up this semester’s work in a draft report that will be shared widely. This report will be used for discussion and input starting with the executive board, then the academic senate, and beyond. It will also be shared with the staff through the staff assembly.

**Bicycle/Pedestrian Safety/Control**

Todd Dickey, Senior Vice President, Administration and David Wright, Associate Senior Vice President, Administrative Operations provided an update on bicycle, pedestrian safety, and control.

We have 45-47K students. Many of them have bicycles, skateboards, and other means of campus transportation. More than 70% of our undergrads live within a mile of the campus.

On a go-forward basis, we have opportunities to design the solution into the spaces themselves. As an example, the USC Village was designed to limit vehicular access, improve traffic and reduce congestion. No cars, electric carts, bicycles, skateboards, etc. are permitted inside the center of
the village.

We can technically ban vehicular access in the central part of campus, but that is not the issue. Enforcement is the issue. Various measures have already been tried: including signs, physical staff, 3 wheelers to chase down the students, staff with mega phones calling out “walk your bikes,” and painted lanes. Students have generally ignored these measures. Another option can be to report them to SJACS.

More information on current measures, proposed measures, and other updates were presented along with the following document:


Contact David Wright if you have any questions or suggestions.

Dialogue with USC’s Provost, Michael Quick

Michael Quick, USC Provost, provided updates on the university.

USC is tracking the potential impacts of the tax reform to USC and its students. Items highlighted included excise tax on investments, provisions on charitable contributions, deduction of college seating rights, and taxing of tuition benefits (e.g. taxing of Ph.D. student tuition remission and employee tuition benefit).

Fall break is moving forward with a few more steps to go through. The registrar is expected to sign off soon and they stated that Fall break won’t impact registration. This change is being discussed with the accreditors and will be going to the university calendar committee shortly. Fall break will most likely be 2 days (Monday & Tuesday) which will result in a reduction of instruction days. Key to the decision to adopting this was that we were out of line with our peer institutions and the students did a good job of presenting data to backup this change. Start of fall break is possible for Fall 2018, but most likely will start in Fall 2019.

Provost Quick provided an update on external review, internal planning, and other changes that will improve the USC culture and practices to support workplace wellness.

Questions were fielded regarding the size of USC’s endowment ($5.2B) and the breaking bread program which funded meals between faculty and groups of students (he will follow-up and get back to us on the status of this program).

Announcements

Paul Rosenbloom, Academic Senate President

(a) January 17 meeting will be held at HSC
(b) Remaining Academic Senate meetings in University Club 2nd floor Scriptorium
(c) Please hold February 23-24, 2018 for the Joint Provost/Senate Retreat.
   Venue: The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites, DTLA; Topic TBD.
(d) The Senate meeting schedule and venues for 2017 - 2018 is posted on the Senate website:
   https://academicsenate.usc.edu/meetings/monthly-meetings/
(e) The roster of Senate members and committee chairs is posted on this link:
   https://academicsenate.usc.edu/senators/senators/
New Business
None stated.

Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 3:56 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Mike S. Lee
Secretary General of the Academic Senate