ACADEMIC SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Meeting of April 18, 2018
University Club, Scriptorium Room
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.


Guest: S. Ahmadi, J. Armour, J. Cain, M. Levine, R. Lonergan, E. Wojciak

AGENDA

Paul Rosenbloom, Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm and introduced the guests of the Senate.

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

Norman Hollyn moved to approve the minutes; Yaniv Bar-Cohen seconded; 18 in favor; 0 opposed; 2 abstentions. At the time of the vote a quorum of senators was present, but not all senators participated in the vote to approve.

Update from Nominating Committee & Introduction of Candidates
Yaniv Bar-Cohen, Chair, Nominating Committee and Academic Vice President, presented the slate of candidates for the 2018-2019 Faculty Senate Executive Board.

Candidates were introduced and given 2 minutes to introduce themselves. Written candidate statements will be sent with the ballots.

Candidates for Academic Vice President (Effectively a three-year term with one-year each in the following: service as Academic Vice President during 2018-2019; service as President during 2019-2020; service as Immediate Past President during 2020-2021)
- Rebecca Lonergan, Professor of Lawyering Skills, Gould School of Law
- Gary Dean Painter, Professor and Director, Sol Price Center for Social Innovation, Sol Price School of Public Policy

Candidates for Secretary General (Two-year term; service during 2018-2019 and 2019-2020)
- Ashley Uyeshiro Simon, Assistant Professor of Clinical Occupational Therapy, Mrs. T.H. Chan Division of Occupational Science & Occupational Therapy, Herman Ostrow School of
Dentistry

- Elisa Warford, Senior Lecturer, Engineering Writing Program, Viterbi School of Engineering

Candidates for Member-at-Large (One-year term; service during 2018-2019)

- Shafiqa Ahmadi, Associate Professor of Clinical Education and Co-Director for the Center for Education, Identity, and Social Justice, Rossier School of Education
- Jody Armour, Professor of Law, Gould School of Law
- Steve Bucher, Associate Professor of Technical Communication Practice, Viterbi School of Engineering
- Jeff Cain, Assistant Professor of Teaching, Design, Roski School of Art and Design
- Sofia Gruskin, Professor of Preventive Medicine, Keck School; Professor of Law, Gould School of Law; Director of the Institute for Global Health
- Jeremy Kagan, Professor, School of Cinematic Arts
- Morgan Polikoff, Associate Professor of Education, Rossier School of Education
- Trisha Tucker, Assistant Professor (Teaching) of Writing, Thematic Option Honors Program, Dornsife College

Ballots will be sent out in next couple of days through USC regular mail. Ballots must be returned to the Senate office by May 1st at 5pm. Completed ballots can also be returned by email to Connie Roque at croque@usc.edu.


Update from the Task Force on Workplace Standards and Employee Wellness

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

The task force spent most of the semester in working groups around 4 topics: core values, chaired by Chantelle Rice Collins; leadership (and shared governance), co-chaired by Rima Jubran and Paula Cannon; concerns (and reporting), chaired by Yaniv Bar-Cohen; and training, chaired by John Gaspari. We have now completed this phase and are receiving reports from the working groups.

The core values working group has discussed procedures for developing a new set of core values and considered whether to tie culture change to USC’s new strategic plan. The leadership working group has discussed, among other things, going beyond just the appointment of a Vice Provost of Leadership to a new Center for Leadership. The concerns working group focused on mapping the existing concerns and reporting processes across the university, along with how this might all fit together with the new processes being proposed. The training working group discussed ways to introduce and sustain a new culture (and processes).

Additional discussion has occurred regarding a new standing council that is proposed to take over from the task force. The task force is now moving into the stage of writing the final report. This report will be more of an addendum to the interim report that has already been distributed.

Proposed Changes to the Faculty Handbook, First Read

Jessica Parr, Co-Chair, Faculty Handbook Committee, presented the first reading of the proposed changes to the faculty handbook.
The process to approve changes to the handbook consists of the two reads. The first is to discuss the changes and for Senators to ask questions. The time between the first and second reads is for you to ask more questions and discuss with your faculty. Proposed changes can be shared with the general faculty. Second read will occur at the next Senate meeting.

Most of the changes are to reflect current practices into the handbook, but there was a more substantive change in Section 6 to how sanctions are recommended in response to faculty misconduct, based on a new faculty panel:

- 6AA - Introduction of professionalism
- 6AA (3) - New process of the Professional Responsibility Panel – the faculty sanctioning panel

A question was asked if there were any mentions of the use of alcohol and drugs in the handbook. That is covered in a separate USC Drug Free policy.

A suggestion was made to change the name of the Professional Responsibility Panel to more accurately reflect the actual responsibility of the committee. Alternative names were suggested, such as Faculty Sanctions and Corrective Actions Committee, but none were found compelling.

Questions or feedback can be sent directly to Jessica Parr.

For more information

- Summary of proposed changes to the handbook
- Faculty handbook 2018 (redlined)

**Resolution on Sustainability**

Darren Ruddell, Co-Chair, Sustainability Committee, discussed Academic Senate Resolution 17/18-001 on USC’s commitment to sustainability. The following student leaders were also in attendance in support of the resolution: Katherine Wiles, Josh Kramer, Cambria Estrada, Tianna Shaw-Wakeman, Milena Castillo-Grynberg, and Philine Qian.

The resolution states that while USC has made “important progress towards many of the goals of the University’s Sustainability 2020 Plan,” but has had “little discussions of any plans or goals beyond 2020.”

The resolution further states that the “Academic Senate reaffirms its support for Sustainability Strategy 2030, expresses its support for the students and their advocacy, and joins with them in urging President Nikias to make USC a leader in this momentous struggle for the future of the planet, by articulating a timeline for reaching the overarching goals of (a) net zero carbon emissions, (b) net zero waste, (c) net zero water, and (d) comprehensive campus-wide sustainability research and education, and by assuring transparency in, and accountability for, progress toward these goals.”

A discussion to include in the resolution a request to President Nikias to sign the Presidents’ Climate Commitment (PCC) occurred amongst the Senators and students. PCC is a letter that is signed by presidents and chancellors of colleges and universities committing their respective schools to developing an action plan, and to submit to annual evaluations, amongst other
commitments. Students stated that the signing of the PCC was included in their petition, Do Better SC: Rally for Sustainability, because it was a concrete ask. The main goal for the students was to get real and hard goals that the administration will accept. They said that they are not tied to the PCC and that they are good with net zero carbon, net zero waste, and net zero water goals stated in the resolution. Further discussion of the PCC was put off until the next Executive Board meeting, and the resolution was called as written.

Motion to approve the resolution was made by the Executive Board; 24 in favor; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions.


Faculty Athletics Representative Update

Alan Green, Faculty Athletics Representative, Associate Professor Rossier, provided an overview of the Faculty Athletics Representative role.

Essentially, all NCAA institution must have one faculty member as the liaison between the student-athletes and the university. The role liaises with faculty as well as with faculty liaisons at other universities. Responsibilities include working with faculty and students when issues come up. He also sits on the Oversight Committee on Athletic Academic Affairs (OCAA) where they provide oversight and advice on matters related to academic support for student-athletes.

Examples of areas that they look into include African American male graduation rates across the university, statistical performance of student-athletes versus non-student-athletes, courses where over 20% of the students are student-athletes, and when there are issues between faculty and student athletes (e.g. bias for or against).

Currently, there are about 557 student athletes. 388 are on some form of scholarship. In Fall 2017, average GPA was 3.0 with 115 students that made the Dean’s list and 11 students with a perfect 4.0 GPA. 258 students were over 3.0. Women’s Tennis had the highest overall women’s semester team GPA of 3.59. Men’s Swimming and Diving had the highest overall men’s semester team GPA of 3.02. Approximately, 50/50 split on gender. Top majors include Business Administration, Communications, Human Biology, Sociology, Real Estate and Development.

A question was asked about resources for the student-athletes. Oversight is provided by OCAA (mentioned above) and resources are provided through Student-Athlete Academic Service.

A suggestion was made to create a faculty committee to support student-athlete liaison function.

Prof. Green will be happy to come back next year to provide another update.

Announcements

Paul Rosenbloom, Academic Senate President

(a) Remaining Academic Senate meetings in University Club 2nd floor Scriptorium
(b) The ‘End of the Year’ dinner will be held on May 9, Cocktails: 4:30 to 5:30; Dinner: 5:30 to 8:30pm; Venue: University Club, Main Dining Room (First Floor, Right Side when entering the main door of the Club) ** Note: New earlier times! ***

Please RSVP with Connie by April 25th
(c) The Academic Senate Annual Planning Retreat will be held August 15, 2018; Location: TBD
(d) If the faculty in your school are confused by, or simply want more information on, the changes coming for teaching and its evaluation at USC, AVP Ginger Clark (ginger.clark@usc.edu) would be happy to talk to your Faculty Council(s) about it
(e) The Senate meeting schedule and venues for 2017 - 2018 is posted on the Senate website: https://academicsenate.usc.edu/
(f) The roster of Senate members and committee chairs is posted on this link: https://academicsenate.usc.edu/senators/senators/

New Business
There was student frustration an incident that happened around campus where an undergraduate RA committed suicide. Students felt that there was not a university acknowledge of what occurred. Further discussion revealed that the communication and response was targeted for the students that were impacted, with people from the counseling center with the impacted students the next day. Lynette Merriman’s office was also very active in individual follow-ups. The issue was narrowed to what should be the public communication to the students, faculty, and general campus when crisis like these arise. Executive Board will invite Varun Soni to speak on this topic in a future Senate meeting.

Adjournment
Meeting was adjourned at 4:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike S. Lee
Secretary General of the Academic Senate