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2 **ACADEMIC SENATE**  
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4 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

5 Special Meeting of the Academic Senate

6 May 23, 2018

7 GER 230

8 3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
9

10 **Present:** S. Ahmadi, J. Ailshire (alternate for S. Curran), S. Altman, J. Armour, S. Asgharzadeh, Y. Bar-  
11 Cohen, S. Bucher, P. Cannon, D. Crombeque, S. Dincer (alternate for J. Son), E. Fife, K. Finney, L. Grazzette,  
12 E. Grossman (alternate for S. Little), S. Gruskin, E. Horowitz, R. Jubran, A. Justice, J. Kagan, R. Labaree, M.  
13 Lee, J. McLaughlin Gray (alternate for C. Resnik), P.T. McNiff, E. Pacifici, G. Painter, J. Parr, D. Pecchenino,  
14 M. Polikoff, R. Randhawa, P. Rosenbloom, S. Shroyer, T. Tambascia, T. Tucker, A. Uyeshiro, E. Warford, G.  
15 Zada.

16 **Absent:** M. Apostolos, L. Bahn, D. Brooks, R. Broyer, L. Castaneda, P. Chang, S. Daneshmand, R. Davila,  
17 M. Frey, A. Goldkorn, N. Hollyn, J. Israel, G. Polidori, J. Sapkin, K. Servis, J. Steele, A. Wilcox.  
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20 **AGENDA**  
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22 Paul Rosenbloom, Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 3:51pm.  
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24 Professor Rosenbloom noted that the purpose of this special meeting was to discuss the situation  
25 regarding Dr. Tyndall, to consider a broader question about the leadership of the university, and  
26 to have open discussion on related topics. The meeting followed immediately after a Town Hall  
27 meeting that the Senate had instigated to hear faculty concerns. Earlier, the Senate had also met  
28 with President Nikias and members of his cabinet, and had heard from the Office of Equity and  
29 Diversity about the investigation into Dr. Tyndall.  
30

31 **Discussion regarding President C.L. Max Nikias and Senior Leadership**

32 The discussion began with the question of whether the Senate should vote on whether it has no-  
33 confidence in President Nikias to continue as USC's President, and if so, whether that vote should  
34 be taken at this meeting or later after senators will have had more time to discuss this issue with  
35 their faculty.  
36

37 Senators reported on feedback from their faculty councils. The Rossier, Gould, and Gerontology  
38 school councils have voted no confidence in President Nikias, or requested his resignation. It was  
39 mentioned that the Keck faculty council appeared mixed, but had not yet formally voted. Other  
40 schools reported that they are in the process of voting, or are still soliciting feedback, or have not  
41 yet had a chance to consult their faculty.  
42

43 Senators reflected on the differing voices and opinions they had heard. Several Senators  
44 expressed concern that President Nikias has not sufficiently engaged with faculty, that his  
45 administration has lacked transparency, and that this has contributed to a lack of trust in the  
46 President. Several Senators expressed that President Nikias may not be the person that can lead  
47 the change that is needed at the university.

48

49 **Discussion regarding Senators voting on behalf of Faculty**

50 A discussion was had regarding the role and responsibility of senators in voting on Senate  
51 resolutions. Some senators expressed concern that they had not yet had a chance to fully receive  
52 feedback from their faculty councils or their school's faculty, which would allow them to make a  
53 more representative decision. Other senators reported that they had consulted their faculty and  
54 that their faculty councils had already taken a vote of no confidence in President Nikias. Others  
55 noted that the senators present at this meeting had been present at both the earlier meeting with  
56 President Nikias and the Town Hall, and were listening to today's discussion, so that they were  
57 able to weigh the issues and then vote as representatives of their schools.

58

59 **Discussion regarding the scope of a resolution**

60 A discussion took place regarding the content of a resolution to be voted on: whether it should  
61 only call for the possible resignation of/no confidence in President Nikias, or should also contain  
62 other statements. It was concluded that the resolution should focus on the question of President  
63 Nikias' resignation, with other topics to be addressed later.

64

65 **Vote on timing for when the Senate should hold a vote on the resolution**

66 Several senators expressed concern about voting today, stating that they preferred to get more  
67 feedback from their faculty before voting. Others felt that waiting until Friday would merely delay  
68 necessary action, and that a vote would be most appropriate today.

69

70 A vote was taken to determine when the Senate should vote on a resolution concerning a call for  
71 President Nikias' resignation. The specific question was "Should we vote on a resolution today?"

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73 18 in favor; 12 opposed; 0 abstentions.

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75 Accordingly, the vote will be held today.

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77 **Vote on the resolution to call for the resignation of President C.L. Nikias**

78 "We the Academic Senate, as the elected body of the Faculty of the University of Southern  
79 California, believe that new leadership is in the best interest of the University now and going  
80 forward. Therefore, we call on President Max Nikias to resign."

81 [Correction: President Nikias' name was corrected to President C. L. Max Nikias in the resolution  
82 after the meeting.]

83

84 Morgan Polikoff moved to approve the resolution; Scott Altman seconded; 24 in favor; 0 opposed;  
85 4 abstentions.

86

87 During the voting process, an unauthorized visitor (a reporter from the LA Times) was identified  
88 and asked to leave the room, as the Senate was in executive session at the time.

89

90 Link to final resolution:

91 [https://academicsenate.usc.edu/files/2018/05/Resolution-17\\_18\\_03\\_-call-for-Resignation.pdf](https://academicsenate.usc.edu/files/2018/05/Resolution-17_18_03_-call-for-Resignation.pdf)

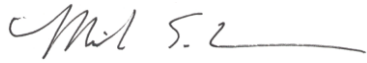
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93 **Adjournment**

94 Meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm.

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Respectfully submitted,



Mike S. Lee  
Secretary General of the Academic Senate

APPROVED