



Faculty History Committee Annual Report to the Academic Senate, 2018/2019

Committee Membership

Dr. Robert V. Labaree, Chair, USC Libraries

Dr. Alexander A. (Sandy) Sawchuk, Leonard M. Silverman Chair, Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering

Claude Zachary, University Archivist, USC Libraries

The Faculty History Committee met twice in person and exchanged emails throughout the year on a variety of topics described in detail below. Sandy Sawchuk joined the committee to replace Mike Lee. There were no requests from the Academic Senate Executive Board nor any standing committees during the academic year for archival documents or historical records related to their work. Prior to the start of the year, Dr. Labaree worked with Connie Roque to review and update the links in the directory of faculty governance websites he had created a number of years ago. The directory is located here: <https://academicssenate.usc.edu/faculty-senates/>

The following topics were discussed and are synthesized from notes taken by the chair during the meetings.

Review Committee Charge

Last year the Senate Executive Board had explored the possibility of expanding the responsibilities of the committee to include supporting efforts to gather and preserve information about the history of distinguished faculty and academic governance more broadly, but that there was no conclusion to this discussion. It was noted that this may have been associated with larger discussions last year concerning faculty recognition initiatives coming out of the Provost's Office that culminated in creating the Hall of Faculty in Doheny Memorial Library and efforts to recognize faculty in the University Club. There was no formal follow up on this, however, the name of the committee was changed from Committee on Academic Senate History to Faculty History Committee to reflect a broader application of its charge.

University Archives

Claude provided an overview of the role University Archives has in preserving the history of the Academic Senate, most notably preserving and making accessible the "presidential binders" of membership lists, agendas, meeting minutes, resolutions, and other documents gathered the monthly meetings of the Senate for each academic year. Under the heading, "University of Southern California History Collection," the USC Digital Library [<http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/>] currently contains Senate meeting minutes beginning in 1947. A carry-over project from last year was to inventory missing meeting minutes and resolutions and begin soliciting copies of those minutes from faculty who served on the Senate during those years, particularly prior to 1996. Claude stated that finding time and support is the big problem in accomplishing this or any other efforts to digitize Senate documents. Other

documents that could be digitized from the binders are agendas, resolutions, white papers, and other items handed out at meetings. Robert also noted that archives of standing committees and task force groups are largely missing from the University Archives and could also be solicited from faculty who served. Membership lists of most of these groups could be found in the presidential binders. Claude shared an Excel spreadsheet of the Senate files currently in the Digital Library that were sent to the University Archives and that this list would be a good starting point for determining what items are missing. Robert agreed and will examine the list during the summer to determine what is missing.

Sol Golomb Papers

The “presidential binders” of Sol Golomb’s [1976/77] and Robert Kaplan’s [1989/90] terms as president of the faculty are missing from the University Archives, raising how important it is to obtain the personal papers of Dr. Golomb. Sandy noted that he spoke with several staff in Viterbi and a staff member who recently retired that had worked closely with Dr. Golomb and they all confirmed that there were no papers, files, or other materials of Dr. Golomb’s housed at Viterbi. Claude had visited the facility last year where Dr. Golomb’s papers are stored and conducted a preliminary review of what was there. He was accompanied by several library faculty during that visit. Sandy offered to contact Dr. Golomb’s sister to ask if the committee members along with the retired staff member from Viterbi, could visit the storage space again and conduct a more thorough review the personal papers and other materials. The sister had indicated when first contacted that she was not ready to donate the materials to the University Archives because they may be needed for a festschrift or other type of publication honoring Dr. Golomb’s work. Sandy will follow up this summer.

Academic Senate Presidents Oral History Project

Formal interviews of past presidents of the faculty was an initiative begun by Dr. Frances Feldman a number of years ago. Robert had revised the interview protocol and received Senate Executive Board approval to expand it to include more in-depth questions about the status of shared governance at USC, the specific work of the Senate, and the effectiveness of faculty involvement in academic decision-making. Robert interviewed Ken Servis [1981/82 faculty president] but the recorder failed to work so Ken’s interview will have to be re-scheduled. Regardless, it was agreed that this project should continue. Sandy mentioned the work of the Emeriti Center’s Living History Project video recording project and asked if future interviews of faculty presidents could be video recorded in a recording facility at the Viterbi School. It was agreed that this could be considered as long as people gave consent to be recorded in this way. Interview transcripts and/or audio recordings would be posted in the Digital Library [<http://digitallibrary.usc.edu/>] under the heading, “University of Southern California History Collection.” Time and scheduling represent a barrier to completing interviews, but it was agreed that, as people pass away, retire, or otherwise leave the university, there remains a general urgency to move forward; for example, Bill Tierney [1999/2000 faculty president] recently announced he was retiring at the end of this year. The committee could work with the Emeriti Center and the Retired Faculty Association to locate past presidents who are no longer on campus. The first step is to identify faculty who could be scheduled for an interview. It was noted that several past presidents, such as Joseph Aoun [1993/94 faculty president] and Erwin Chemerinsky [1996/97 faculty president], are employed out of town, but could still be interviewed remotely. Claude shared a list of interviews that have already been made and suggested the next step would be to have them formatted and posted on either the Senate website or Digital Archive. Robert noted that, in addition to Ken Servis, he would like to focus on scheduling interviews with Bill Tierney and Marty Levine because on-campus access to both may be uncertain due to extensive travel and possible administrative charges, respectively.

Doheny Library Hall of Faculty

Marty Levine had approached Dr. Labaree in his role as Senate Historian requesting that he assist with reviewing the profiles of faculty selected to be honored in Doheny Library Hall of Faculty and to suggest any past faculty member who may have been overlooked. Robert mentioned that he had mentioned to Marty that Bill Tierney was retiring at the end of the calendar year and, as a USC Distinguished Faculty member, he should be considered for being honored in the Hall of Faculty. Marty also asked for any additional information that could be added to past faculty profiles. As he had time, Robert began locating obituaries and other relevant articles for several first faculty of USC from the *Los Angeles Times* online archive and sending them to Marty. Subsequently, Claude noted that the University Archives maintains an extensive collection of newspaper clippings and other source files on prominent faculty at USC and, therefore, these efforts were not necessary. If additional information is needed for a person's profile, Claude stated he could obtain this from the University Archives.