

1
2 **ACADEMIC SENATE**
3

4 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

5 Meeting of September 11, 2019

6 Doheny Memorial Library, Room 121

7 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.
8

9 **Present:** P. Adler, S. Ahmadi, M. Apostolos, Y. Bar-Cohen, B. Blair, T.A. Brun, S. Bucher, J. Cederbaum, D.
10 Crombecque, M. Crowley, M. Daniels-Rauterkus, E. Fife, L. Grazzette, D. Griffiths, L. Helling, A. Imre, J.
11 Israel, M. Jacobson (alternate for C. Pike), R. Lonergan, T.J. McCarthy, J. Parr, D. Pecchenino, G. Polidori, C.
12 Redfearn, C. Resnik, S. Rich, T. Sandmeier, P. Sigismondi (interim senator), A.U. Simon, C. Tucker, G.
13 Ulkumen, J.B Walker, A. Wilcox, T. Williams, A. Wu

14 **Present Online:** B. Belcher, A. Mackay, T. Ton (alternate for C. Park), A. Zoto

15 **Absent:** D. Armstrong, S. Wickersheimer, G. Zada

16 **Guests:** R. Cislowski, A. Elefano, M. Ewalt, C. Folt, M. Levine, R. MacKenzie, B. Mico, C. Neuman, N. Olmos,
17 N. Warren
18

19 **AGENDA**

20
21 Rebecca Lonergan, Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2:03 pm.
22

23 A moment of silence was observed to honor victims of the September 11th, 2001 attacks.
24

25 **Introductions**

26 All persons present stated their names, titles, schools, and role in the Senate, if any.
27

28 **Dialogue with USC President Carol Folt**

29 President Folt stated she and the new Provost will attend portions of as many Senate meetings as possible.
30 She has been making her way around to as many faculty and Faculty Council meetings as possible, and
31 (with the Provost) will continue to do so. Folt stated she is getting a sense of the depth and breadth of USC,
32 including the importance of shared governance; but while she will always try to be candid and honest, she
33 acknowledged that she cannot always be completely transparent. She recognized that although there are
34 many issues that need to be addressed, the two that top her list are:

- 35 1. Doing a “deep-dive” into athletics and admissions, to take a comprehensive look at all the
36 processes, policies, etc. from recruitment through after graduation. She will also be putting some
37 things into place very soon, but would like for the Provost to get here first as this will affect
38 academic life.
- 39 2. Enhancing our sustainability efforts. Folt stated Daniel Mazmanian (Price, Dornsife) has agreed to
40 lead the initial Task Force on Sustainability, and that she has spoken to the deans about getting
41 people from their schools involved.
42

43 A question was asked about a timeline for structural changes of the Board, administration, and deans that
44 Folt would like the University to have. Folt answered that she feels she can build a framework for the deans
45 and administration in a matter of months, as most problems are about operational structures, inclusion of
46 deans in decision processes, and getting them more realistic information. She stated expectations for
47 deans (e.g., how they work with faculty) need to be put in place and informed by Faculty Councils, the
48 Senate, the Provost, and the AAUP. Regarding the Board of Trustees, Folt stated that they are working on
49 their own governance structures, but although it is difficult for the Board to change, this process should not
50 hinder the other opportunities for change at the University.
51

52 Another question was asked about whether the Stevens Institute operations will be reexamined, given

53 Randy Hall's recent announcement that he will be stepping down as Vice President of Research soon. Folt
54 stated she does not know enough at this point to give an answer, but the Provost will likely be the one to
55 examine this.

56

57 **Approval of May Senate meeting draft minutes**

58 Ashley Uyeshiro Simon, Secretary General, presented the May 2019 draft minutes for discussion and
59 approval. She clarified that anyone not present at that meeting should abstain from voting.

60

61 *Chimene Tucker moved to approve the minutes with a friendly amendment to correct the meeting date*
62 *(year); Paul Adler seconded; 19 in favor; 0 opposed; 17 abstentions.*

63

64 **Orientation for new Senators**

65 Lonergan stated that a [proposed Senator Orientation document](#) was emailed to all Senators prior to this
66 meeting, and went on to highlight certain aspects:

- 67 • Representation: Senators represent all faculty in their respective schools, not just full-time faculty
- 68 • Voting and non-voting Senators, and voting procedures including how to vote via video conference
- 69 • Election of the Executive Board
- 70 • Term limits of six concurrent years
- 71 • Attendance to ensure representation
- 72 • Senate meeting dates, documents, minutes, and "talking points" that are sent to all faculty after
73 each meeting with hyperlinks to relevant documents to keep faculty informed of what was
74 discussed
- 75 • Communications: Senators are responsible for communicating what happens in the Senate back to
76 their faculty and Faculty Councils. They should also bring school-based issues to the Senate's
77 attention, especially when University-level issues may also be implicated, or they involve difficulties
78 working with administration.
- 79 • Committee oversight and structures: There are [over 80 committees](#) and the Senate oversees or
80 helps to staff many of these; some are Senate committees, some are University committees, and
81 many are joint Provost/Senate committees. Senate committees have websites and report histories,
82 but other types of committees may not. Lonergan stated she will try to keep the Senate apprised
83 of these committees in an effective manner (e.g., inviting committee chairs to talk about the
84 charges and progress of their committees, having end-of-year reports to give out, and perhaps
85 establishing a "Committee on Committees"), despite the large number. [\[To read an article about](#)
86 [the Ins and Outs of Senate Committees, click here.\]](#)
- 87 • Senate retreats in Fall and Spring

88

89 A question was asked if there are plans to hold at least one meeting on the Health Sciences Campus (HSC)
90 to show more inclusivity. Concerns were raised about previous attempts to have Senate meetings on HSC
91 which yielded low attendance rates and sometimes not having a quorum. A Senator stated he has attended
92 both in-person and online, and the online experience has been fine.

93

94 Lonergan stated that for technological or website questions, Senators should contact [Uyeshiro Simon](#)
95 (Secretary General), and for agenda questions contact [Lonergan](#) (President) or [Paul Adler](#), Senate Academic
96 Vice President.

97

98 Clarification questions were asked regarding committee structures, nominations, and established Senate
99 processes. It was explained that the Executive Board is still in the process of finalizing some committees
100 and their charges for this year, as well as navigating which committees will be needed this year due to
101 changes in administration. A statement was made about how involvement in committee work can be tied
102 to recruitment and engagement of faculty in the Senate. Dan Pecchenino, Senate Administrative Vice
103 President, explained the process of self-nominations, staffing to consider diverse representation of
104 opinions, and acknowledgement/gratitude to self-nominees. He also addressed the misperception that

105 serving on a committee requires dean or Faculty Council approval.

106

107 An inquiry was made about where Senators can find more information about Faculty Council purposes,
108 roles, and responsibilities. Lonergan identified the [Progress Report from the Task Force for Shared](#)
109 [Governance](#) contained proposed language to better define Faculty Councils, but that the Deans have
110 resisted this language. She stated they are arranging a meeting with the Deans to discuss this further, but
111 that they are also waiting until the new Provost can decide his position on this issue because it likely will be
112 impossible for the Senate to change the language with the Provost's support. It was noted that the
113 Marshall Faculty Council spent a lot of time on this, and that a confidential place for Senators to share
114 documents would be good to have despite differences between schools.

115

116 Lonergan reported that the Executive Board is in the process of setting up a closed online forum for Faculty
117 Council Chairs and Senators, from which people can opt-out. This is so people can pose questions to one
118 another, share documents, and more without having to wait until Senate meetings. She also stated there
119 will be an [anonymous feedback and comments link on the Senate website](#) soon.

120

121 **Resolution 19/20-01 (Trojan Council)**

122 Lonergan presented [Resolution 19/20-01](#), which endorses the creation and existence of a Trojan Council. A
123 friendly amendment was proposed to correct the spelling of "WHEREAS" in Line 14.

124

125 *The Executive Board moved to approve Resolution 19/20-01 with a friendly amendment to correct the*
126 *spelling error in Line 14; Devin Griffiths seconded. Motion unanimously passed with 36 in favor; 0 opposed;*
127 *0 abstentions.*

128

129 **Priorities for the Senate during the 2019-2020 academic year**

130 Lonergan discussed key issues and initiatives for the Senate this year.

131

- 132 • Continue working on shared governance. The Task Force on Shared Governance is continuing its
133 work again this year and will be talking about Executive Board elections, committee membership
134 and construction, and more.
- 135 • Modify Faculty Council language in the Handbook.
- 136 • Continue efforts towards culture change. The Barrett Values Survey comes out in mid-October; all
137 Senators should encourage their faculty to participate. This process will involve lots of follow-up
138 discussions about the survey results, which will lead to concrete things that can be done to
139 improve our culture.
- 140 • Continue efforts towards student wellness. Lonergan stated she sits on the Provost's Cabinet,
141 where they are discussing this and she is able to push hard for initiatives the Senate supports.
142 Other Senators stated we also need to think about faculty and staff wellbeing, as well as graduate
143 student needs.
- 144 • Work with administration to improve investigatory procedures and policies through the [Office of](#)
145 [Conduct, Accountability, and Professionalism \(OCAP\)](#). Lonergan stated she has been working with
146 Mike Blanton, Vice President of Professionalism and Ethics, and Felicia Washington, Senior Vice
147 President for Human Resources on this issue. She has asked for two working groups to be set up,
148 one to examine investigatory procedures and the other to look at informal processes to handle
149 misconduct (similar to the [Professionalism Program at Keck](#)). She has also asked for an expansion
150 of the Ombuds offices and leadership and misconduct/reporting training for all people in
151 supervisory positions to help them understand when to handle issues internally, when to report to
152 OCAP, etc. Other Senators raised concerns about OCAP membership, lack of clarity of procedures,
153 lack of support throughout the process, unreasonable timelines, and a culture of fear that has been
154 perceived by some faculty due to the OCAP processes. It was clarified that this office was
155 announced in 2017, and was intended to address non-protected class complaints that do not fall
156 under the Office of Equity and Diversity or Title IX.
- 157 • Address Master Program quality through a Task Force co-chaired by Paul Adler and John
Matsusaka, Interim Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.

- Represent faculty in the new working group on athletics and admission reform, which President Folt is creating.
- Oversee the four Strategic Plan Committees which will each be giving out \$500,000 in grants to faculty.

Discussion regarding Proposal for Bike-Free Zone

Mark Ewalt, Executive Director for Administrative Operations, gave a brief overview of and requested feedback about a proposal developed years ago to make central portions of campus accessible only to pedestrians, vendors, and facilities vehicles (see [summary email](#), [full campus map](#), [specific maps](#), and [full report here](#)). The feedback will be taken to the Vice Presidents and Provost, then the President to see if we can move forward on increasing safety on campus. He stated that the last representative bodies that saw this proposal were the memberships of the Senate, Staff Assembly, and Student Government bodies three years ago (which were supportive of this type of proposal at that time), but this year the Staff Assembly desired a more aggressive plan while Undergraduate Student Government only wanted to ban electric vehicles and increase other traffic management strategies.

The floor was opened for questions, which included clarifications about what vehicles are banned, enforcement (including need for quality control training of CSC officers), boundary establishment, bike parking, and student education. Ewalt clarified that the proposed plan includes all vehicles (bikes, skateboards, etc.) except vendors and utility/Facilities vehicles. He stated enforcement would be heavy in the first 3-4 weeks, then DPS would do “spot” enforcement for the rest of the semester, and this schedule would continue for four years. A lot of reinforcement at intersections is currently done by CSC (third-party vendor), but this is very expensive. Ewalt specified the zones that are proposed would allow students from off-campus to reach the various functional zones of campus, without pushing bike traffic onto a city street. The solutions for bike parking (with an estimated 5,000 bikes needing 2,800 bike parking slots) that were proposed were to move bikes to the perimeter or use the first floor of parking structures for all bike parking; however, no decision has been made about this issue yet.

Ewalt identified having a statement of support or opposition from the Senate to present to upper administration would be helpful; however, Lonergan stated that there was not enough consensus at this time. After a straw poll, most Senators were in favor of the proposal, but many wanted more information.

Announcements

- a) The Senate meeting schedule is posted on the Senate website:
<https://academicsenate.usc.edu/>
- b) The roster of Senate members and committee chairs is posted on this link:
<https://academicsenate.usc.edu/senators/senators/>
- c) Sustainability Committee would like to announce that the Global climate strikes will be September 20th, 3-4:30pm (same day as inauguration) in support of climate strike movement and urgent action.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 4:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Ashley Uyeshiro Simon
Secretary General of the Academic Senate