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ACADEMIC SENATE

Resolution 19/20-06

Amendments to the 2019 Faculty Handbook

WHEREAS the USC’s administration and faculty have agreed that we must develop a culture of trust at USC by having open and candid communication and consultation about significant policies, programs, and problems;

WHEREAS the 2019 Faculty Handbook section 2-B (1) and the Academic Senate Constitution recognize that:

The primary purpose of the Faculty Assembly, the Academic Senate, and the school faculty councils, is to contribute to the intellectual vitality of the University, to faculty governance, and to the faculty environment. They are forums for faculty decision-making, and are the voice of the faculty in the making of university policy and the consideration of academic issues. They strive to safeguard academic freedom, full academic due process, and the tenure system. They also determine positions on faculty status, responsibilities and welfare, other important institutional issues, and any and all issues pertaining to the wellbeing of the faculty and the University.

WHEREAS the 2019 Faculty Handbook, section 2-B (3) requires “[t]he faculty of each school have established an elected council to participate in the governance of the unit and the University,” but does not define the role or responsibilities of such faculty councils;

WHEREAS the Academic Senate believes that including a basic definition of the role and responsibilities of the faculty councils in the Handbook will help foster a more consistent, consultative, high quality system of shared governance at the university;

WHEREAS in 1967, the American Association of University Professors issued a “Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities,” listing guiding principles that are crucial to developing strong shared governance at universities, including open communication between faculty and the administration, and providing a “full opportunity for appropriate joint planning” by the administration and faculty, and recognizing that it is “the responsibility primarily of the faculty to determine the appropriate curriculum.”

WHEREAS the 2018-2019 Task Force on Shared Governance issued an Interim Progress Report recommending that the Faculty Handbook be amended to say that faculty councils should serve as “the committee that, jointly with the School’s administration, makes determinations on academic policies, curriculum, instruction, annual faculty review, academic programs, admission management policies, academic priorities for the budget, student-life initiatives, and diversity and inclusion.”

WHEREAS, the 2019-2020 Handbook Committee, the Senate’s Executive Board, and the Academic Senate as a whole have considered and approved the attached, proposed amendments to Chapter 2 of the Handbook;

49 BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Senate endorses and recommends to the President of
50 the University the adoption of the proposed Handbook changes set forth in Attachment A.

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52 Resolution Number: 19/20-06

Motion by: Executive Board

53 Date: March 11, 2020

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55 To be presented, as Second Read, at the Senate meeting on April 15, 2020

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57 Action taken: