



Faculty History Committee

Annual Report to the Academic Senate, 2019/2020

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 initial membership of the Faculty History Committee was to include Dr. John Delsnyder, a part-time faculty member in the Ostrow School of Dentistry, but he left the university and Sandy was kind enough to serve another term. During the second half of 2019, Claude took a sabbatical to conduct research on former USC President Rufus Von KleinSmid. Given this, the committee scheduled its first in-person meeting for Friday, March 27th but, needless to say, it did not take place, nor did any additional meetings during the Spring semester. The pandemic undermined our ability to pursue various action items, such as, conducting in-person interviews of past faculty presidents or continuing to pursue acquisition of Dr. Sol Golomb's personal papers, which we anticipate would include numerous documents and correspondence related to his term as President of the Faculty.

The committee was not entirely dormant, however. Of note was acting on a request from Dr. Lonergan in mid-August to investigate if there were any archival records concerning a "University Council" that had existed for a time in the early 1970s. This request had been sent in response to some faculty asking that the Senate Task Force on Shared Governance discuss the validity of creating a new University Council that would include the President, Provost, faculty leaders, staff leaders, and student leaders. Dr. Levine had noted that faculty had voted to disband the past University Council to give more decision-making authority to the Academic Senate. A document Robert tracked down written by the USC Office of Institutional Studies in 1974 entitled, *USC Faculty: Their Views of the University* reported on the results of a confidential survey of the faculty and included some information about the composition of the University Council. It did not, however, shed any light concerning why the Council was disbanded [the document can be found here: <https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED096917.pdf>].

Given this, Claude was contacted and he confirmed that information about disbanding the University Council would not be included among the papers of University President John R. Hubbard housed in the University Archives; documentary evidence about the disbanding of the University Council would be in the Office of the President files, which are sealed and require a formal request to President Folt's office to request permission to find any related materials. A decision to pursue this was then left to the Academic Senate Executive Board.

Next year the committee intends to, among other things, investigate the viability of conducting and recording oral history interviews of past faculty presidents remotely, particularly if the Fall semester is online-only.