1	Academic Senate
2	Meeting of April 17, 2013
3	University Club, Scriptorium Room
4 5	University Park Campus
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7	MINUTES
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10 11 12 13	Present: R. Ben-Ari, D. Blaine, P. Cannon, N. Chopiuk (alternate for R. Lin), G. Clark, P. Conti, S. Curran, P. Ethington. R. Flick, R. Girandola, J. Goad, C. Gomer, H. Greenwald, L. Hunt, M. Jordan-Marsh, J. Kagan, R. Labaree, V. Marmarelis, O. Mayer, J. Moffett, E. Moore, R. Mosteller, K. Murphy, M. Parks, J. Platt, P. Riley, J. Silvester, D. Metz, J. Steele, A. Trope, M. Weinstein, W. Wolf (alternate for C. Wang), M. Schroeder
14 15	Absent: D. Brooks, L. Carver, R. Davila, Y. DeClerck, C. Dieterle, S. Gupta, A. Lakoff, D. Larsen, M. Marx, E. McCaffery, E. McCann, J. Orr, K. Venegas,
16	Guests: J. Armour, E. Garrett, M. Levine, S. Metros
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18	Called to order at 2:05
19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26	Provost remarks: good news in admissions cycle, doing very well. Comprehensive report from Monday but also email 1432 deposits today—up significantly from previous years. Our gross yield 14%, up from last year also. Scholarship recipients flat, international up significantly, suggesting the bad press is waning. Scions and underrepresented the same. All schools but very small ones up in numbers. Annenberg, Dornsife up, Viterbi, Marshall up. Grad admissions is a longer process so it's not as clear by May 1 how those numbers will go. Graduate applications are down 7.6, consistent with national trends. We are estimating flat admissions in graduate schools.
27 28 29 30	Memo on class continuity during weekday football game has gone out. Will occur at least every other year. This Thursday game schedule is because of the new t.v. contract. No classes will be cancelled. We will keep tailgating off campus, but it will be disruptive from late middle of afternoon to evening. Taking steps to make the day manageable is strongly encouraged.
31 32 33	We have three searches going on. Dean of Fine Arts, new Vice Provost of Student Affairs with faculty, staff and students. Finalists coming early summer. Now people are coming for CIO search to replace the irreplaceable Ilee Rhimes. Strong candidates for this.
34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43	In the news last week was video of a part-time teaching associate taped by a student without permission. Excerpts were used to make a 15 minute video which got linked to blogs and picked up by Fox News. Phone calls have been coming in, 450 emails and calls. All are answered. Alumni and parents get two responses. Provost released a statement as did Dan Schnurr on behalf of the Unruh Institute that brings in political consultants with real world experience. The Provost's statement referred to the faculty handbook citing academic freedom in the classroom. At the same time the handbook requires a correlative duty to teach in a professional manner and discharge ourselves responsibly. There are processes in place to make decisions about faculty. As a scholar in political campaigns who has taught similar courses and published in the field, I have reviewed the video and the syllabus. I see regrettable language used in the video. However we might all be surprised by 10 minute excerpts of our courses. The syllabus uses the leading

- casebook in the field on election law. It is a good book. The topics are appropriate. He also
- encourages students to look him up online as an atypical professor. Parents continue to be
- 47 concerned although it seems to be dying down. No apparent reduction in donations has occurred.
- 48 q. was this upper division?
- 49 a. yes, an elective course.
- q. is there a cautionary tale here for our online courses? Snippets will be easier to edit.
- a. online you know you are being taped so there's a difference. But yes professors have to think
- about it when they are being taped and in fact could be taped at any time.
- q. the NY Times blog that follows high school seniors reported on an ecstatic admit to USC last
- week. Admitting 100 more students than last year seems to be a statement that we are worried
- about the convert rate going down.
- a. we are not worried. We have a sophisticated model that changes every year. This year we
- 57 did assume an increased yield from last year and a decrease from the year before.
- q. as devil's advocate, is there in fact evidence that academia does have left-wing orientation if
- 59 not bias?
- a. I don't have empirical evidence and we hire the best people. Unruh institute does take
- orientation into account as they are hiring practitioners. Most faculty are looking for the truth in
- their field in a rigorous way which transcends bias.
- q. so you don't allow people to tape yourself when you teach. How do you stop it?
- a. we were given the choice in the law school and I would always default out of it. It should be
- up to the class and the professor so everyone is aware.
- q. if this was clandestine, is that student subject to disciplinary action?
- a. our SCAMPUS says distribution without express permission of instructor is prohibited.
- q. is this a good teaching moment? It does us all a disservice. Can we revisit what the model of
- 69 the ideal classroom is? I teach politics as well and while I can talk about parties playing the race
- card there's a difference between calling them racist.
- a. that is why my statement was drafted the way it is. I use the language of responsibility from
- the handbook. We must think about how we communicate that to our part-time teaching
- 73 colleagues.
- 74 q. classes taught on campus that feature left-wing ideas such as Feminist Theory rank as
- diversity and expose the students to ideas they do not get in their normative academic curriculum
- so the argument that academia has a left-wing bias is spurious. Being democratic is not left-wing.
- q. it is important to convey to your students that you are objective in the way you deal with
- 78 students so if you are expressing a subjective point of view students do not fear that that
- subjectivity will extent to their evaluation.
- 80 q. there has been in inordinate amount of email traffic on the academic calendar.

- a. I would not worry about the Fall break proposal at this time. I do not think that is likely to be
- 82 changed.
- q. different campuses have different timing and calendars. That could be a hot topic for
- 84 discussion.
- a. there has been some regularizing that has been necessary but different professional training
- 86 requires different academic calendars and we will not interfere with those. Doug Shook would
- be the person to have the conversation with. The law school successfully met as a faculty to
- bring their schedule in line with the university. They saw the benefits.
- 89 Patti: there will now be a senate representative on the academic calendar committee. Past
- 90 Senate presidents involved in this email discussion point out that there are faculty who are
- 91 interested in a Fall break, not just students. There would be some faculty support with a more
- 92 workable solution.
- Provost: logistically the academic calendar cannot begin earlier in the year. Students may not
- 94 appreciate this. The Wednesday holiday before Thanksgiving took a decade of petition to
- 95 become an Academic Holiday. There are too many moving pieces to change the calendar.
- a. the FEC is going to be looking at the issue.
- 97 q. do we benchmark our student contact hours and are we on the high side?
- a. yes we do and yes we are. But we have to think about optics—is this the time to decrease
- 99 contact hours in a time of value for money?
- q. do our high contact hours hurt our ability to recruit faculty?
- 101 a. it is occasionally brought up in recruitment yes.
- 102 Minutes approved with three abstentions.
- Report of the nominating committee: thanks to members of committee for their work. Thanks to
- all of the candidates. It's a strong ballot. Introductions of candidates will commence at this time.
- All candidates will have statements available in the voting packet.
- Patti: paper ballots will be disseminated to all voting members.
- 107 Information technology committee report. Representative from CIO office Susan Metros
- attended instead of Ilee Rhimes. Memo attached to agenda outlines various projects the
- committee is working on. Annual ITS survey of faculty and staff has come in. Have kept
- ranking as one of top 10 super computers in the U.S. Also looking at security breaches—only
- access via VPN to maintain security. New email is coming to replace SunJava. We will migrate
- to Office 365. Email encryption important to comply with confidentiality regulations. Should be
- in place by 2013. Network upgrade plan in place has been set aside. Topic of discussion for our
- committee in May and into next year. Each of you has a tech person in your unit so you can
- speak with them and email us as well. Our learning management system—Blackboard—is
- being actively reviewed. You can have an organizational account on it to deposit password-
- protected information, including for non-USC colleagues. Drop Box is not backed up like
- Blackboard is so be sure to keep this in mind. Also documents in Drop Box are not encrypted

- unless you encrypted them. Copyright issues for video needs to be looked at. We did a survey
- to identify some of the problems.

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- 122 q. is KUALI part of your brief?
- a. no. we may comment on it but it is not in our area.
- q. is the university calendar under your auspices?
- a. we currently run a Sun system for central email. We are in a project to migrate to Office 365,
- Microsoft's Exchange Online. That will be email and calendar integrated.
- q. we have been trying to have events across the university available in one central space. This
- would help connect the university.
- a. that is a project under Web Services and they are looking for a way to develop the technology.
- People would need to put the events in and in the right way. Nimble information, a new
- movement, might be the solution. We want to gather the requirements that you need.
- q. for your focus groups about infrastructure needs please include the medical school.
- a. the first focus group has been done with Marshall to see if the format is good. If we go ahead
- there will be 30 of them across all campuses.
- q. it's not just events at stake but the whole interaction of faculty between campuses. Business
- requires teleconferencing from HSC. We must be sure whatever we do is comprehensive in
- addressing faculty needs.
- a. the video at USC task force had this issue brought up. It is on the radar.
- q. can you say more about the new video platform? We use training videos and it's
- cumbersome to check them out from the library. Also we upload long videos and cannot
- 141 YouTube or make them private so that needs to exist.
- a. this is a priority as well.
- q. last time you were here you said you would send a questionnaire to deans. I suggested one go
- to the councils as well and I want to reiterate that.
- a. first we are refining focus group questions. Faculty Councils do need to be involved as well.
- 146 We will come back to get help refining questions.
- q. what will happen to schools that are already on Outlook? And do we get SharePoint? Is it
- secure?
- a. Office 365 comes with attached applications including SharePoint. Also Link, a
- comprehensive way of connecting with each other for conferencing etc. These are attached.
- 151 SharePoint is replacing content management.
- 152 q. will we have access to Link?

- a. first it is email being migrated. We are looking at resources to meet department needs.
- 154 SharePoint requires an architect for the central view.
- q. so this puts us in a secured web space? And do schools need to change?
- a. it is up to the school. They don't have to change if they like their system although that can
- affect communication with other schools. As to security there are a number of layers, a secure
- channel with Microsoft. Unlike Google, it is a US cloud, our major requirement.
- 159 Students will now have gmail accounts and we will no longer have a 1 year limit on email
- storage due to greater capacity.

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- q. what exactly, assuming that Marshall maintains its own server, happens in terms of
- interaction with the university system?
- a. there is a theoretical bridge.
- q. there's no website for the focus groups. If you go with them, how will they be composed?
- a. CIS will work with Candy and the faculty who do this kind of research to shape them. It will
- be under Susan Metros.
- q. will the students be able to maintain their emails? This is good for alumni relations.
- a. yes that is definitely on the table so we can reach them as alumni.
- Be sure to turn in your committee desire sheet for next year. You received it online. Lots of
- 171 great responses already.
- There are announcements on the agenda. Please note the dates.
- End of the year reports from committees are due at the May meeting.
- Last meeting we talked about the Sustainability proposal and asked faculty to discuss these
- issues with their Councils and if they had any projects going on to move into the larger proposal
- we are writing. We are trying to get a sense of how many Deans and Councils have movement
- in this area.
- 178 Meeting adjourned at 3:55.
- 179 President Riley closed the meeting at 4:00pm.

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181 Respectfully submitted,

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- 183 Diana Blaine
- 184 Member-at-Large of the Academic Senate