

1 Academic Senate Meeting Minutes

2 November 19, 2014

3 University Club, Scriptorium Room

4 **Present:** S. Bice (alternate for J. Barnett), L. Carver, J. Chisum, G. Clark, A. Crigler, S. Curran, R. Davila,  
5 M. Eshaghian (alternate for M. Gundersen), C. Gomer, H. Greenwald, A. Hancock, J. Kagan, J. Kopcsak,  
6 R. Labaree, R. Lonergan, M. Madden, M. Moghaddam, K. Murphy, A. Neville-Jan, A. Ouellete, L. Palinkas,  
7 M. Pensavalle (alternate for A. Dowd) , B. Rathbun, P. Rosenbloom, D. Ruddell, J. Silvester, J. Steele,  
8 M. Vicedo, C. Wang, E. Webb, M. Weinstein, R. Weisberg, C. Zachary, W. Ziebis

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10 **Absent:**, P. Cannon, E. Collins, O. Mayer, C. Munzer, D. Oakes, S. Palmer, R. Paulson, W. Petak, C. Russell,  
11 R. Smith, I. Steinberg

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13 **Guests:** S. Bullock, A. Carry, L. Fetters, E. Garrett, M. Levine, B. Meyerowitz, C. L. M. Nikias

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16 1. Provost Beth Garrett and Beth Meyerowitz, Vice Provost for Faculty Development

17 Provost Garrett said farewell – this is her last Senate meeting prior to going on academic  
18 sabbatical on December 1 as part of her transition to the presidency of Cornell University. The  
19 Academic Senate presented Provost Garrett with a farewell gift of a Brazilian vase.

20 Provost Garrett introduced Beth Meyerowitz, who presented two elements of the Vice Provost  
21 for Faculty Development’s portfolio, including a review of a recent empirical study conducted  
22 regarding the university’s recently tenured faculty. She also announced the new Provost’s  
23 Assistant Professor Fellowship – available to faculty available who are newly hired – they apply  
24 so that they can have a year of fellowship to substantially improve their research (learning new  
25 instrumentation, getting to an archive they couldn’t normally get to, etc.).

26 These results have been presented to deans, vice deans, and to the Academic Senate. Beth  
27 Meyerowitz is happy to present this information to department chairs or senior faculty as  
28 requested. A written report will likely not be forthcoming since the sample sizes are too small to  
29 be statistically valid.

30 2. Approval of Senate Meeting Minutes from October 15

31 Paul Rosenbloom proposed three changes: Correction of the Meeting Location to HSC;  
32 Correction to the Engineering Faculty Council Report to Viterbi’s *entering* class is 38% female.  
33 Clarification: the Viterbi Faculty Council created three standing committees (as opposed to self-  
34 organizing into three committees). Minutes were approved as amended with 1 abstention.

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36 3. Update on Sustainability Meeting

37 The Academic Senate held a two-hour meeting on November 7, 2014 to explore this topic.  
38 Approximately 23 people attended – very good engagement, some members of the Senate were  
39 also present; many attendees indicated that they would like to participate in any future events.  
40 Included on the agenda were members of the university’s sustainability committee. The  
41 committee members who came to the meeting have been collecting data around courses in the

42 interest of developing some additional academic integrity to the topic. They are preparing a  
43 report for President Nikias. They also discussed USC's current STARS report – a self-reporting  
44 assessment by which one earns points that translate into a rating for the campus as being  
45 sustainable (with classifications of bronze, silver, and gold). It appears that USC would not  
46 currently score very well on this assessment and the Sustainability Committee's report will make  
47 recommendations on how the university could increase its sustainability activities (and raise  
48 its rating). The idea would thus be to get the Sustainability Committee's report to raise the  
49 rating. It is working on the report and it's not yet public – they will probably finalize the report  
50 by the end of the academic year.

51  
52 *Follow-up post-meeting:* Andre Ouellette reported on the meeting to the Keck Faculty Council  
53 and they will be inviting the Sustainability Committee to Keck to think about how to bring  
54 sustainability to the medical campus. Dennis Riddell reported that the Dornsife Faculty Council  
55 also discussed it and would be interested in additional collaboration and information as well.  
56 John Silvester proposed a small Task Force – 3 faculty from Senate, 3 faculty from the  
57 Sustainability Committee to move this report forward upon its completion. James Steele would  
58 like to volunteer for the Task Force – and Jeremy Kagan as well. Jeremy also announced that  
59 David Orr, one of the leaders of the sustainability movement, will speak on November 20<sup>th</sup> at  
60 10:30 am in RRI. He helped transform Oberlin College into a national leader on sustainability.

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62 4. Dialogue with the President regarding the Provost's Search

63 President Nikias gave an update about the search, including taking questions and advice from  
64 the Senate as the search continues to select the next Provost of the university. Ainsley Carry,  
65 Vice-Provost for Student Affairs, also attended this portion of the meeting as a member of the  
66 Search Advisory Committee, as did Sarah Bullock, who is the staff liaison for the committee.

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68 The responsibilities of the provost have changed tremendously over the past 20 years, even as  
69 recently as 15 years ago. Budgetary responsibility that was originally transferred when President  
70 Nikias became provost remained with Provost Garrett and the next provost will also have final  
71 say regarding the overall budget of the university.

72  
73 Searching for a new provost is also an opportunity for restructuring if necessary – President  
74 Nikias won't hesitate to do it if it is necessary – such as when he created a new senior vice  
75 president position for the hospitals which is an office of the corporation position (USC Health  
76 CEO Tom Jackiewicz reports to President Nikias directly). The Keck dean, however, reports to  
77 the provost and the provost has final oversight of the university budget. Another example is the  
78 recent suggestion to take some or all of IT out of the provost's portfolio and put it under the  
79 senior vice-president for administration's portfolio.

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81 The provost is the guardian of academic values and the final say on all tenure and promotion  
82 cases. For these reasons the new provost must have outstanding academic integrity. The  
83 provost is the shock absorber of the university and must be both a positive and high energy  
84 personality who is comfortable with uncertainty and making decisions in that context. The  
85 provost helps the deans succeed – which is a different kind of leadership than the president.

86 The difference between the dean's and president's job at USC is a matter of scale, rather than  
87 the provost, who although they will have many opportunities to shine personally, it is primarily a  
88 matter of making others shine. Previous budgetary experience and understanding of the  
89 research university and its complexities are essential; knowledge of student affairs and  
90 residential life are also critical. We are looking for candidates who have qualifications in most if  
91 not all of these areas.

92  
93 No matter who the person is, the idea is that the president will spend a lot of time over the first  
94 year training and mentoring that person. President Nikias did it with Provost Garrett even  
95 though she was an internal hire and is committed to doing it again.

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97 5. Update on the Provost Senate Retreat – Oliver Mayer could not be here today. He is co-chairing  
98 the Strategic Transformations committee. The agenda is being developed with the notion of  
99 seeing where we've been over the past 5 years. It will be on a single day – one approach is to  
100 look at broad themes contained in the most recent plan. Another is to look at particular aspects  
101 of especial interest to faculty – e.g. Residential Life. Are there faculty who should be invited to  
102 the retreat because they have either a particular expertise or interest in strategic planning?  
103 Please let us know. Other suggestions for the retreat are welcome as well.

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105 6. Announcements  
106 Save the Dates: Provost Senate Retreat January 31 at the Ritz-Carlton, LA Live  
107 Senate Holiday Dinner will be here at the University Club on January 21, later after the full  
108 Academic Senate meeting that day – spouses are welcome.

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110 Respectfully submitted,

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113 Ange-Marie Hancock, Ph.D.  
114 Secretary General of the Academic Senate

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