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2 **ACADEMIC SENATE**
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4 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

5 Meeting of December 13, 2017

6 University Club, 2nd Floor, Scriptorium Room

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

9 **Present:** L. Bahn, Y. Bar-Cohen, D. Brooks, S. Bucher, P. Cannon, R. Chung, R. Davila, E. Fife, S.M. Gibson, A.
10 Green (alternate for M. Polikoff), S. Gruskin, A. Justice, J. Kagan, R. Labaree, S. Little, J. Nyquist, E. Pacifici,
11 G. Painter, D. Pecchenino, G. Polidori, G. Ragusa, R. Randhawa, C. Resnik, P. Rosenbloom, D. Ruddell, W.
12 Seidenberg (alternate for L. Castañeda), S. Shroyer, G. Siassi, J. Son, J. Steele, N. Stoubis, T. Tambascia, T.
13 Tucker, A. Uyeshiro, D. Vanderbilt, E. Warford, V. Webb
14

15 **Absent:** S.A. Altman, M. Apostolos, S. Asgharzadeh, K. A. Breisch, R. Broyer, L., P. Chang, D. Crombeque, S.
16 Curran, S. Daneshmand, K. Finney, M. Frey, A. Goldkorn, L. Grazzette, N. Hollyn, E. Horwitz, J. Israel, M. Lee,
17 J. Sapkin, K. Servis, R. Watanabe, A.G. Wilcox, G. Zada
18

19 **Guest:** L. Bradshaw, A. Hodge, M. Levine, J. McLaughlin-Gray, P.T. McNiff, C. Wiedeman, Z. Unno
20
21

22 **AGENDA**
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24 Paul Rosenbloom, Academic Senate President, called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm and
25 introduced the guests of the Senate.
26

27 **Approval of November Senate meeting draft minutes**

28 Elisa Warford, standing in for Mike Lee, Secretary General, presented the November draft minutes
29 for discussion and approval.
30

31 *Daniel Pecchenino moved to approve; Stephanie Shroyer seconded; 19 in favor; 0 opposed; 0*
32 *abstentions.*
33

34 **Report from the Senate Campus Climate Committee on definition of terms**

35 Ruth Chung, Co-Chair of the Campus Climate Committee, gave an overview of the report produced
36 by the committee.
37

38 Lara Louise Bradshaw and Claudia Wiedeman, of the Shoah Foundation, presented the report,
39 which includes a discussion of the origins of the topic of diversity on campus, a literature review
40 on campus diversity, definitions of terms involved in the discussion, and recommendations for
41 next steps. The report recommends a self-study at the faculty, staff, and student levels to
42 determine the baseline climate on campus. Such a report would require resources and support.
43

44 Suggestions were made to edit the report before disseminating to the wider University
45 community.
46

47 Reference link:

48 https://academic senate.usc.edu/files/2017/12/CampusClimateReport_FINAL121117.pdf
49

50 **Interim report from the Senate Faculty Environment and Employment Committee**

51 Guilan Siassi and Douglas Vanderbilt, Co-Chairs of the Faculty Environment and Employee
52 Committee reviewed the committee's progress on its new charges and reviewed improvements
53 on campus regarding last year's report.

54
55 New charges of the committee include work on sustainable transportation, including inter-campus
56 commutes. The committee is working with the Sustainability Committee and Transportation on
57 these matters. They are anticipating the launch of a University app, RideAmigos, which will help
58 members of the University community figure out the best way to commute to campus, including
59 carpools, bicycle lanes, or transit passes. This app will also provide data that will help the
60 committee make future recommendations. The committee is working with Transportation to
61 publicize the app and incentivize its use.

62
63 In a related issue of campus safety, there was discussion about the use of motorized scooters,
64 such as Urb-E's, on campus. The Cinema school has voted to ban Urb-E's out of safety concerns;
65 however, the University does have a business relationship with Urb-E. The committee will work on
66 a report to recommend which different types of transportation should be used in which areas of
67 campus in terms of safety.

68
69 The committee is also working to understand the needs of virtual faculty, faculty who are not
70 primarily based at one of the USC campuses. They are investigating ways to better connect this
71 faculty with the campus community, to include them in shared governance, and address security
72 concerns such as identity verification.

73
74 Siassi and Vanderbilt also reported on progress from last year's report. They stated that campus
75 child care has improved with a change in providers. Campus safety recommendations from last
76 year have been given to the Provost's office and are being followed up on. Presently, individual
77 units can schedule training sessions with DPS on topics such as active shooter training.

78
79 Paula Cannon thanked the committee for its effective and productive work.

80
81 **Interim report from the Sustainability Committee**
82 Darren Ruddell, Co-Chair of the Sustainability Committee reported on the work of the committee.
83 He noted that the committee currently has fifteen members and is growing due to great interest
84 in its work. The committee works with three primary student groups, with staff, and with
85 administration.

86
87 The committee is working on implementing operations goals based on the Sustainability 2020
88 plan. One major change is that, beginning in spring, the University will be contracting with a new
89 waste provider to reach the University's goal of 75% recycling by 2020. The committee is also
90 working to establish a research initiative. The Deans from Price, Dornsife, and Viterbi are
91 contributing money to launch a sustainability solutions lab, which would allow for new academic
92 programs.

93
94 It was noted by Senate members that USC lags other peer and aspirational institutions in the area
95 of sustainability.

96
97 **Update from the Task Force on Workplace Standards and Employee Wellness**
98 Paul Rosenbloom provided an update on the Task Force on Workplace Standards and Employee
99 Wellness. The task force has completed a full draft of a progress report for the fall semester,

100 which it expects to present to the Executive Board for discussion January 10, 2018 and to the full
101 Senate January 17, 2018. It will then go out to the full faculty.

102
103 Some of the main recommendations in the report include:

- 104 1. A university-wide process for developing, implementing, and maintaining a new set of core
105 values—both to aspire to and to avoid— for the university
- 106 2. A more streamlined, one-stop system for receiving reports and concerns about individuals
107 and units. There are currently many offices that handle different issues, with confusion and
108 gaps in communication and investigation resulting.
- 109 3. Shared governance should be strengthened. There should be better consultation with
110 faculty and reporting back to them, and an increased faculty role in leadership
111 appointments and reappointment.
- 112 4. Leaders should undergo enhanced background checks and leadership training.
- 113 5. There should be increased focus on individual and organizational wellness. There should be
114 better help for those people who are having problems and better response to those who
115 have been affected by bad behavior.

116 117 **Joint Provost/Senate Retreat**

118 Paul Rosenbloom announced that the main topic for the Joint Provost/Senate Retreat in February
119 will be the topics addressed by the Task Force on Workplace Standards and Employee Wellness.
120 Possible session topics include core values, ways to strengthen shared governance, sharing and
121 handling concerns, and wellness.

122 123 **Update on the Breaking Bread Program**

124 Andrea Hodge, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs addressed concerns raised at the
125 November Senate meeting regarding the Breaking Bread program, which allows faculty to be
126 reimbursed for taking students to a meal to foster student-faculty relationships and learning.

127
128 When Hodge took over the program, she looked at data from five semesters about who was using
129 the program and found that only a small group of faculty uses the program. While most faculty
130 take 3-5 students out, some faculty were taking 90-100 students, in large groups, which does not
131 serve the goals of the program of having faculty and students get to know each other. Hodge
132 increased the reimbursement limit to \$15/student and restricted the number of students to
133 groups of two. She sought feedback from Senate members about how to improve the program.
134 Some Senate members were concerned about the appearance of favoritism if only two students
135 are being taken out, or the potential issue of faculty being one-on-one with students. Other
136 members noted that faculty can be badgered by students to be taken out. Other members
137 discussed their desire to use the funds to buy pizza or picnic foods for a small class.

138 139 **Call for Nominations**

140 Julie Nyquist, Chair of the Senate Awards Committee, provided an overview of the Distinguished
141 Faculty Service and Walter Wolf Awards and encouraged Senate members to nominate their
142 peers.

143
144 The Distinguished Faculty Service award is an annual award for long-term service to faculty
145 governance. The Walter Wolf award includes governance but is also intended for faculty who have
146 promoted the voice of the faculty and their right to speak. It is not awarded every year.

147 148 **Announcements**

- 149 Paul Rosenbloom, Academic Senate President
150 (a) Call for Proposals: Open Educational Resources Grants for USC Faculty
151 (<http://bit.ly/oergrant2>)
152 (b) Next meeting (January 17) meeting will be held at HSC (room TBD)
153 (c) Remaining Academic Senate meetings in University Club 2nd floor Scriptorium
154 (d) Please hold February 23-24, 2018 for the Joint Provost/Senate Retreat.
155 Venue: The Westin Bonaventure Hotel & Suites, DTLA; Topic TBD.
156 (e) The Senate meeting schedule and venues for 2017 - 2018 is posted on the Senate website:
157 <https://academicsenate.usc.edu/>
158 (f) The roster of Senate members and committee chairs is posted on this link:
159 <https://academicsenate.usc.edu/senators/senators/>

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161

162 **New Business**

163 None stated.

164

165 **Adjournment**

166 Meeting was adjourned at 3:58 pm.

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168

169 Respectfully submitted,

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171

172 Elisa Warford

173 On behalf of the Secretary General