

# Primer on Existing Shared Governance at USC

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# Levels Summarized Here

- Academic Senate
  - University administration
  - Board of Trustees
- Faculty Council
  - School administration

# Academic Senate

- 42 Voting members
  - 33: 6 Dornsife, 6 Keck, 2 Marshall, 2 Viterbi, 1 all else (including Retired Faculty Association)
    - Each school determines their own representative(s)
  - 9: Executive Board (EB)
    - President, Academic VP, Administrative VP, Secretary General, 4 At Large, Immediate Past President
    - Elected by Senate
    - Candidates from nominating committee and any others endorsed by 5 senators
  - Can serve at most six consecutive years
- Non-voting members
  - 30 Committee (Co-)Chairs + 1 from Provost's office
- Annual budget provided by Provost
  - Mostly for support staff and two annual retreats

# Getting Work Done

- Full Senate
  - Meets monthly during academic year
  - Meetings are typically open, but can be executive session
  - Agenda developed by Executive Board
- Executive Board (EB)
  - Meets weekly year-round (except when Senate meeting)
  - Meetings are typically closed and confidential
  - Agenda developed by Senate President
- Committees: Senate, Joint & University
  - Appointed by EB and/or administration
  - Annual charge from EB, chair(s) and/or administration
  - Meetings and agendas from chair(s) and/or admin.

# Committees

## Senate Committees

- Faculty Affairs Committees
  - PT Faculty Affairs
  - RTPC Faculty Affairs
  - T/TT Faculty Affairs
- Other Faculty-Focused Committees
  - Faculty Environment and Employment
  - Faculty Handbook
  - Faculty Rights and Responsibilities
- Senate-Focused Committees
  - History (Senate Historian)
  - Rules, Membership and Election
  - Senate Awards
  - Nominating Committee
  - Task Force on Shared Governance
  - Task Force on Communications and Engagement
- University Environment Committees
  - Campus Climate
  - Sustainability
  - Task Force on Innovation

## Joint Committees

- Teaching and Academic Programs
- Deadlines and Leaves
- Finances and Enrollment
- Information Services
- Mentoring
- Research
- University Libraries
- Task Force on Interdisciplinary Communities
- Task Force on Sexual Harassment

**University Committees may also have faculty representation, some appointed with advice of Senate, some not; with little to no other Senate engagement**

# How Stuff Gets Done (or Not)

- All senate & joint committees advisory to administration
- Senate committees report back to the Senate
  - Yield Senate motions and/or direct interaction by the Faculty President and/or EB with administrators
  - Helps to understand administration's goals as well as faculty's
    - A good working relationship also helps
  - Recommendations may still not be enacted for a variety of reasons, or may require work over multiple years to succeed
- Each joint committee reports to one administrator
  - Committees provide advice directly to that administrator and also update Senate
- Other progress may happen without committees based on direct advice from Faculty President, EB and/or Senate
- Provost is default primary point of administrative contact
  - Meets regularly with Faculty President, EB and Senate
  - USC President has very little contact with Senate
  - No faculty on President's cabinet or Provost's cabinet or council

# Communicating with Faculty

- Minutes, Website, Facebook, Twitter & Instagram
  - Twitter account much more active this year
- Quarterly newsletters via email and website
  - President's blog post
- Faculty mailing list
  - Provided by Provost's office (and can be refused use)
  - Traditionally there has been pressure to limit use
- Through faculty councils
- Town halls and other group meetings (rarely)
- Email, phone calls & one-on-one meetings

# Board of Trustees

- Full Board ( $\leq 60$  Voting)
  - Elected by Board itself
  - Five-year terms
  - Four regular meetings per year
- “Shared Governance”
  - No faculty as members
  - Faculty do not attend full Board meetings
  - Faculty “observers” attend parts of meetings of some committees
  - Been ambiguous whether observers can speak up
  - Observers do not vote
- Committees
  - Executive
  - Academic Affairs
  - Finance
  - University Development
  - Alumni Affairs
  - Campus Planning
  - Board Personnel
  - Student Affairs
  - Audit and Compliance
  - Public Affairs
  - Investment

# Faculty Councils

From recent survey of  
Faculty Council Chairs

**Not from survey, but as with  
University Committees there are  
important School Committees that  
have little to no FC connection**

- Between 3 and 26 members
  - From no officers to a small number
  - Mixture of default open versus closed meetings
  - Some do all work in full meetings others use committees
- Most elected, either at large or by unit within school
  - But some appear to be appointed or volunteer
  - Mixed on whether have term limits
- Most have no budget of own
- Most, but not all, have access to faculty roster and mailing list
- Generally happy with accessibility of Dean's office
  - But are not generally consulted on important decisions
  - Mixed as to whether have opportunity to examine school's budget
- Advisory, with little to no decision-making authority
  - But most often advice is listened to and frequently followed
- Diversity of what have accomplished over past few years
- Some concerns expressed about:
  - Difficulties with salary benchmarking
  - Difficulty with top-down organizations that may not make accessible what is needed to act
- Senators are most often chairs or other officers, but sometimes separately elected by council or all faculty, and sometimes appointed by council chair