

1
2
3

ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

4 Meeting of January 20, 2021

5 Virtual Meeting

6 2:00 - 4:00 pm PST

7 **Present (Senate Members):** P. Adler, M. Apostolos, D. Armstrong, J. Baker, D. Becker, B. Belcher,
8 M. Bodie, D. Brooks, R. Brown, S. Bucher, A. Cannon, P. Cardon, B. Carrington, C. Clerc, E. Collins,
9 M. Crowley, G. Davison, L. Ferguson, R. Filback G. Giuliano, L. Gross, S. Gruskin, S. Helfter, A. Imre,
10 J. Israel, M. Jacobson (alternate for M. Mather), J. Kirschner, G. Kung, R. Labaree, R. Lonergan,
11 N. Malmstadt, T. Mayfield, J. Moore, B. O'Connell (alternate for C. Clerc), D. O'Leary, N. Olmos,
12 L. Palinkas, D. Pecchenino, G. Polidori, M. Press, G. Ragusa, A. Rechenmacher (alternate for C.
13 Neuman), C. Resnik, A. Samkian, A. Sanchez, T. Tambascia, A. Uyeshiro Simon, A. Van Speybroeck,
14 J. Walker, E. Warford, T. Wattenbarger, J. Wong (alternate for T. Ton), G. Zada, E. Zeamer

15
16 **Absent:** J. Dopheide, T. Sandmeier

17
18 **Guests (Senate Members alternates & invited guests):** K. Carlson, R. Cislowski, G. Clark, C. Finch,
19 C. Folt, M. Karp, M. Levine, F. Liley, J. Loeb, R. MacKenzie, M. Mataric, J. McLaughlin Gray, A.
20 Motamed, L. Nieto, R. Pak, M. Pastor, B. Shuster, A. Stott, R. Turner, F. Washington, C. Young,
21 C. Zukoski

22
23

AGENDA

24 **Call to Order**

25 Academic Senate President Adler called the meeting to order at 2:02 pm.

26 **Approval of Minutes of December Senate Meeting**

27 Academic Senate Secretary General Brooks presented the December 2020 minutes for discussion
28 and approval.

29 ***Motion to approve the December minutes. Seconded and passed: 34 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3***
30 ***abstentions.***

31 **President Folt and Provost Zukoski**

32 President Folt made a brief appearance to comment on the historic nature of the day
33 (Inauguration Day), sharing that the day was deeply personal and hopeful for her. She noted the
34 alignment of themes expressed during the inauguration and those of the university.

35 Provost Zukoski also commented on the historic nature of the day and of Martin Luther King Jr.
36 Day. He noted that we are still struggling as university to achieve our aspirations of equality for all.
37 Zukoski highlighted our 5th Annual Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Week, which will take place
38 virtually March 8 - 12. For the remainder of his remarks, the Provost focused on the business of
39 the new semester.

- 40 • Spring enrollment remains strong, down only 2 to 2 ½ % compared to last spring, which
41 Zukoski suggests is a good outcome and a testament to what faculty have done to build
42 superior and desirable educational programs. In comparison to last year at this time,

43 undergraduate enrollment is flat, while graduate enrollment is down about 2.2%, due mostly
44 to a reduction of international masters and professional doctoral students who have trouble
45 getting into the US. We had a record number of first year applications for the fall 2021
46 semester. First year applications were up 20% over last year and 6% over 2019, which was an
47 historical high. The 2021 pool is diverse and competitive.

- 48 • The Provost invited Ginger Clark, Director of USC's Center for Excellence in Teaching and a
49 Professor in the Rossier School of Education, to join him in a discussion about academic
50 integrity and student learning in our online educational programs. Zukoski convened a group
51 to study what we have learned from our time online over the past year. He sees this as an
52 opportunity to reconsider fundamental assumptions about teaching and learning and to build
53 better pedagogical cultures across the university. As an example, proctored exams are a
54 traditional style of assessment that translate poorly to online modalities and may be outdated
55 for in-person teaching as well. Due to fairness and privacy concerns, the University will
56 discontinue the use of online proctoring tools such as Respondus. While there have been no
57 incidents raised at USC in relation to these tools, we have heard concerns from elsewhere and
58 from the working convened to address these issues. Respondus's Lock-down Browser tool,
59 however, remains acceptable. Zukoski will work closely with the Senate around these issues. In
60 collaboration with Senate President Adler, he will form a joint Provost/Senate Task Force to
61 review options for better assessing student learning outcomes, fairness and equity in both
62 ground and online courses.
- 63 • Andy Stott, Vice-Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate School, presented
64 his plan for a review of the university's PhD programs, aimed at prompting departments to
65 self-assess how well programs are meeting their stated objectives. This will be a collaborative
66 effort between the Provost's Office and the Deans, with considerable faculty engagement.
67 Stott imagines that the spring will be spent developing the model, metrics, and report
68 template, the summer on data collection, and the fall on data analysis. Ultimately, the review
69 will be student-centered and aim to identify ways the university can support programs so that
70 they can better prepare students for the opportunities they are most likely to face post
71 graduation.
- 72 • Zukoski concluded with updates on the COVID vaccination program. Currently we are in Phase
73 1A, which means we are vaccinating frontline healthcare workers and personnel in healthcare
74 environments, including faculty, staff, students, residents, and fellows. We have a USC COVID
75 19 vaccine rollout page on our COVID 19 Resource Center Website, which Zukoski encourages
76 Senators to bookmark and review regularly. Details are [available here](#) and questions can be
77 emailed to covid19@usc.edu.

78 **Resolution on Senate Representation (2nd Reading and Vote)**

79 The Senate then proceeded to a second reading and vote on the Resolution on Senate
80 Representation, which details new procedures for determining the number of Senators to be
81 represented from each school. Based on the total number of Tenure/Tenure Track and RTPC
82 faculty currently working at USC at least 50% time, the new procedures leave unchanged the
83 number of Senators in 16 schools and increase the number of Senators for 5 schools/units:
84 Dworak-Peck School of Social Work; Ostrow School of Dentistry; Viterbi School of Engineering;
85 Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences; and Keck School of Medicine.

86 *Motion to approve the Resolution on Senate Representation. Passed: 26 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3*
87 *abstentions.*

88 **Open Discussion**

89 Adler opened the floor for discussion about issues the Senators would like to see addressed in
90 future Senate meetings. Suggestions included: a follow-up discussion on the implications of
91 enrollment numbers for salary freezes, reduced pension contributions, and the FY22 budget;
92 clarifying the nature of the restrictions on endowments' restricted funds; more Q & A with the
93 Provost and more open floor discussion in general; and discussions about strengthening shared
94 governance in general and in the Faculty Councils in particular.

95 **SVP Felicia Washington and Professor Manuel Pastor: REDI Task Force report**

96 Felicia Washington (Senior Vice President Human Resources, Equity, and Compliance) and
97 Professor Manuel Pastor shared a PowerPoint presentation and described key results emanating
98 from the work carried out by President's and Provost's Task Force on Racial Equity, Diversity, and
99 Inclusion (REDI). Pastor began by describing the history and framing the issue of racial equity,
100 diversity and inclusion at USC. Washington then discussed the charge and organization of the REDI
101 Task Force. Washington and Pastor highlighted key results and recommendations organized
102 around themes that were addressed by Task Force workgroups. These include (1) recruitment and
103 retention, (2) programs and curriculum, (3) research and evaluation, (4) culture and values, and (5)
104 support and resources. Adler opened the floor for discussion. The Task Force's full report will be
105 available shortly.

106 **Adjournment**

107 Meeting was adjourned at 4:01 pm.

108

109 Respectfully submitted,

110

111



112 Devon Brooks

113 Secretary General of the Academic Senate