

USC Academic Senate

Academic Senate Newsletter

November 2022

Dear Colleagues,

To keep you informed of the work of the Academic Senate, this newsletter from the Executive Board (EB) provides updates on the Senate's activities since the October Senate meeting and shares the agenda for the upcoming official Senate meeting.

Announcements

- The next Academic Senate meeting will be held Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 2:00 - 4:00 PST in a hybrid format: in DML 121 for in-person attendees as well as on Zoom. Find the meeting agenda [here](#); the meeting agenda includes Zoom meeting information (Meeting ID: 932 6631 8155 Passcode: 655628). If attending via Zoom, please use your USC Shibboleth sign-in. All faculty are welcome to attend monthly Senate meetings. We are excited to meet and engage in the work of shared governance.

EB Activity Update

The EB met weekly to address a range of issues, including the following: supporting Faculty Councils through planning a meeting of FC chairs and generating items to potentially include in FC bylaws; organizing next steps to address pedestrian safety on the UPC and HSC campuses, and safety leaving campus after night classes; urging equity in parking access between the UPC and HSC campuses; offering input on the composition of the Academic Council within the university-wide Diversity and Inclusion Council; following up on faculty inquiries related to changes in academic integrity processes; advocating for FC consultation on promotion guidelines; and meeting regularly with the Provost and other senior leadership.

Highlights of Meetings

- The [October Academic Senate meeting](#) was held Wednesday, October 19, 2:00 - 4:00 PM PST.
 - Academic Senate President Dan Pecchenino welcomed all and emphasized a goal of the meeting was to connect faculty with the leaders of various campus initiatives. Senate President Pecchenino introduced Academic Vice President Margo Apostolos, who announced the Nominating Committee will be seeking four volunteers. The Nominating Committee identifies candidates for election to next year's Executive Board.
 - DPS Interim Chief and Executive Director David Carlisle and Associate Vice Provost, Office of Threat Assessment and Management Patrick Prince discussed campus safety strategy. Chief Carlisle described the [2022 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report](#), which includes reporting on crime in accordance with the Clery Act. Chief Carlisle noted the neighborhood coverage of the Yellow Jacket Security Ambassador program, surveillance cameras, and Lyft ride program for students and responded to several audience questions.

- Vice President and Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer Christopher Manning shared an overview of what the Office for Inclusion and Diversity has been working on and presented an initiative on faculty hiring.
 - Overall, the Office has been moving forward aspects of the REDI report with the President’s Office, the Provost, and the VP of Human Resources, including building a Diversity and Inclusion Council and a data team to produce the University’s first Diversity Report. The Office has also developed resources to create a stronger infrastructure for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) at USC: a resource library; professional development in DEIB that is centralized yet customizable to specific units, to be offered through on-demand workshops, probably available in late Fall; and crisis management that focuses on building community resilience. CIDO Manning recommended that units develop a one-to-three year plan to address issues they would like to work on, noting that attending one workshop is as ineffective as going to the gym once a year.
 - For [faculty hiring](#), the Office has developed tools at three scales: an on-the-ground large workshop for each campus; an interactive webinar and a reference website; and peer trainers available to units by request. The Office is working on details of requiring these tools for faculty hiring and conducting pre- and post-assessments. CIDO Manning and Senate President Pecchenino encouraged faculty councils to bring input and questions to CIDO Manning.
- Provost Zukoski offered opening remarks on cybersecurity, the disaffiliation of some fraternities, and sustainability, and noted a new initiative supporting first-time department chairs. Provost Zukoski introduced USC leaders to provide further updates on these topics:
 - Director of Governance and Risk Management in Information Services, Sandy Taylor, discussed recent cyberattacks and the importance of “cyber hygiene” for individuals and units. Director Taylor emphasized that research projects and centers should review their cybersecurity practices closely with their schools.
 - Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Monique Allard, reported on the University’s ongoing efforts supporting student safety and wellbeing following the disaffiliation of some Interfraternity Council (IFC) chapters. VP Allard noted disaffiliation is a nationwide trend, driven in part by chapters’ interest in recruiting earlier than allowed by most universities. More information is available at the [USC IFC Affiliation/Disaffiliation FAQ](#).
 - Chief Sustainability Officer, Mick Dalrymple, and the Co-Chair of the Presidential Working Group on Sustainability, Mahta Moghaddam (Viterbi), introduced [Assignment:Earth](#), the umbrella framework for sustainability efforts across USC. Additional information is available at sustainability.usc.edu
- Director of USC WorkWell Center Lara Hilton and Assistant Director for Health and Well-being Programs Julie Chobdee highlighted the WorkWell Center’s services for

faculty and staff and the [Health and Well-being Resource Directory](#), a thirty page inventory of such resources across USC. They presented the [Healthy Campus Initiative](#), which aims to embed health and well-being elements throughout USC practices, policies, and systems, and encouraged faculty to respond to the Healthy Campus survey. To join subcommittees of the WorkWell Center's Advisory Committee, contact Julie Chobdee at <jchobdee@usc.edu>.

The full schedule of official Senate meetings for the year and meeting details are included on the [Senate website](#). All faculty are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We welcome feedback on these issues directly (acsenate@usc.edu) and encourage you to reach out to us or your Faculty Council with concerns, questions, or suggestions. Be well and we will see you soon.

Sincerely,

The Academic Senate Executive Board