ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
Oct 19, 2022
Hybrid Meeting
2:00 - 4:00 pm PT


Absent: D.S. Grimes, S. Fereshteh, C. Smith, C. Young


AGENDA

Call to order: Dan Pecchenino, Senate President

Academic Senate President Pecchenino called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

Announcements

Academic Vice President and President Elect Margo Apostolos announced that elections for the Nominating Committee will take place during the November 16 Senate meeting. Four members from the Senate will be elected to serve on the committee along with four members from the Executive Board.

DPS Interim Chief and Executive Director David Carlisle and Associate Vice Provost, Office of Threat Assessment and Management Patrick Prince

DPS Interim Chief and Executive Director David Carlisle and Associate Vice Provost, Office of Threat Assessment and Management Patrick Prince discussed campus safety strategy. Associate Vice Provost Prince noted that Senate President Pecchenino had brought faculty's questions about campus safety to his office and appreciated the opportunity to speak with the Senate. Prince remarked that Chief Carlisle would discuss safety in more detail and they could return to the Senate in the future or hold a Town Hall.
Chief Carlisle described the 2022 Annual Security and Fire Safety Report, which includes reporting on crime in accordance with the Clery Act. The Clery Act requires universities to report certain types of crimes following particular guidelines so that there can be apples-to-apples comparisons about public safety across universities. 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 questions from Senators. A Senator asked why the Safety Report no longer includes descriptions of incidents, to which Chief Carlisle responded that the time invested to accurately summarize each incident became impractical. Another Senator asked if the notices of crime sent by email vary from what is included in the report. Chief Carlisle responded that they are different, with the emails usually offering more detail to serve as a timely warning about public safety, in contrast to the cataloging function of the report. Another Senator inquired whether the classroom surveillance cameras record sound and for how long the recordings are stored. Chief Carlisle clarified that the classroom surveillance cameras are not controlled by DPS; DPS controls about four hundred surveillance cameras in the community. However, if there is an incident in a classroom, DPS can access the video recording. Some have audio and some do not. Recordings are typically kept for forty-nine days, although the policy may vary by department and school. A last question was asked about pedestrian safety in relation to electric scooters, skateboarders, and cyclists on campus. Chief Carlisle noted that this issue regularly arises and that the Senate had had a resolution on the matter some years ago. In response to these concerns, a plan was developed about transiting on campus, but there has been resistance from various stakeholders, including students, on implementing more far-reaching changes, such as limiting the inner UPC campus to pedestrians only.

Vice President and Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer Christopher Manning

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

Provost Zukoski offered opening remarks on cybersecurity, the disaffiliation of some fraternities, and sustainability, and noted a new initiative supporting first-time department chairs and a recent meeting with the Big Ten Academic Alliance. Provost Zukoski introduced USC leaders to provide further updates on these topics.

Director of Governance and Risk Management in Information Services, Sandy
Taylor

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 referenced a cyberattack on USC in August and that this prompted a call to action about cybersecurity, focused on actions to prevent cybersecurity incidents and help address them if they do occur. A key action Director Taylor highlighted is to have a list of the computers in each lab and the users who have access to the systems, even if faculty are working with publicly available data. Director Taylor emphasized that research projects and centers should review their cybersecurity practices closely with their schools. The required cybersecurity training for all faculty is designed to be interactive and focus on faculty issues.

Interim Vice President for Student Affairs, Monique Allard

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. At the start of the semester, eight of fifteen IFC chapters had separated from the university and an additional two chapters would likely be disaffiliating this week. The chapters have cited a range of reasons for disaffiliating; one of the chapters specifically cited a rapidly changing policy, culture and compliance landscape at USC. VP Allard noted that disaffiliation is also a nationwide trend, driven in part by chapters’ interest in recruiting earlier than allowed by most universities. She shared that USC’s priority is supporting student safety and wellbeing, and that the University is doing this through working with students individually, meeting regularly with national and local organizations and advisers, and working closely with city resources such as the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Fire Department. USC Student Affairs also meets regularly with the four additional councils for Greek life on campus. More information is available at the USC IFC Affiliation/Disaffiliation FAQ. Senators raised questions from the floor. In response to a question about whether incidents of concern had increased this year related to the disaffiliation, VP Allard responded that this seemed similar to previous years, but the University will continue collecting data. VP Allard also explained the limitations on recruitment according to University policy in response to a Senator’s question.

Chief Sustainability Officer, Mick Dalrymple, and the Co-Chair of the Presidential Working Group on Sustainability, Mahta Moghadam (Viterbi)

Chief Sustainability Officer, Mick Dalrymple, and the Co-Chair of the Presidential Working Group on Sustainability, Mahta Moghadam (Viterbi) introduced Assignment:Earth, the umbrella framework for sustainability efforts across USC. CSO Dalrymple reiterated that sustainability is one of President Folt’s top priorities and shared that over one hundred USC faculty, staff, and students had helped to develop the framework. Rather than create a new sustainability center or institute as some universities have done, USC’s approach towards sustainability is to infuse sustainability across all aspects of USC, from operations to academics to research, with the idea that this work needs all of us and we all have something to contribute. The Assignment: Earth framework creates new organizational structures and tools to incentivize and enable cross-University partnerships. Moghadam introduced key goals: in research, to double sustainability related research in the next five to six years; in curriculum, to increase sustainability courses by about ten courses per year by adding new majors, minors, or certificates across campus; in terms of operations, to reach climate neutrality by 2025, zero waste by 2028, and reduce campus water consumption by 2028. Additional goals, information about the mechanics of meeting these goals, and recent achievements is available on the sustainability.usc.edu website. Senate President Pecchenino remarked that in order to not duplicate sustainability efforts between the Senate and the Presidential Working Group on Sustainability, that moving forward, the Senate Committee interest
form would ask for faculty’s interest in sustainability with the goal of connecting them to others working in that space through the PWG. Moghaddam welcomed faculty interest and also urged Senators to email her and CSO Dalrymple with the sustainability news and initiatives happening at department and school levels.

**Director of USC WorkWell Center Lara Hilton and Assistant Director for Health and Well-being Programs Julie Chobdee**

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. Chobdee also welcomed faculty interested in joining subcommittees of the WorkWell Center’s Advisory Committee to contact her at <jchobdee@usc.edu>.

**Adjournment**

Meeting was adjourned at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

**Christal Young**

Christal Young
Secretary General of the Academic Senate