

USC Academic Senate

Academic Senate Newsletter

December 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 November Senate meeting and shares the agenda for the upcoming official Senate meeting.

Announcements

- The next Academic Senate meeting will be held Wednesday, December 14, 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](#); guests will include President Folt, Executive Vice Provost Elizabeth Graddy, and Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate School Andy Stott. 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: meeting with Faculty Council chairs to support them in developing bylaws; reviewing the proposed Faculty Leadership Fellows program to capacitate faculty interested in learning more about university structures and governance; reconfiguring the role of the Senate Faculty Council on Equity and Inclusion in conjunction with the university-wide Diversity and Inclusion Council; participating in Policy and Community Advisory Committee (PCAC) discussions on pedestrian safety on the UPC and HSC campuses; discussing changes in the Provost's Office with President Folt and Executive Vice Provost Graddy; and meeting regularly with the Provost and other senior leadership.

Highlights of Meetings

- The [November Academic Senate meeting](#) was held Wednesday, November 16, 2:00 - 4:00 PM PST. After approval of the [September](#) and [October](#) meeting minutes,
 - Academic Senate President Dan Pecchenino welcomed all and shared that Senate Administrative Coordinator Connie Roque will be retiring at the end of December, after 28 years working with the Senate and 38 years at USC. At Connie's request, the Senate will wait until the end of year celebration in May to formally express gratitude and veneration for Connie.
 - Academic Vice President Margo Apostolos announced the Nominating Committee ballot and voting procedures. With votes tallied at the end of the meeting, all candidates were approved. The [Nominating Committee](#) identifies candidates for election to next year's Executive Board.
 - Vice President of Research Ishwar Puri and Interim Vice President of Research Strategy and Innovation Steven Moldin shared updates about USC Stevens and other

- research issues. VP Puri and VP Moldin thanked the [Research Committee](#) for their comprehensive [report](#) raising concerns about tech transfer and entrepreneurship. VP Puri provided legal and historical context on these issues, discussed key faculty frustrations, and shared a couple ways USC will be increasing support for innovation, such as starting an incubation facility. VP Moldin added that strategic planning in Research would address the recommendations raised in the report, including making research funding and the innovation ecosystem extremely transparent.
- Chief Information Officer Doug Shook reported on finding a new [Learning Management System](#) (LMS) and other ITS issues. CIO Shook shared that the funding for a new LMS was not approved this fiscal year and would be resubmitted for next year.
 - Assistant Director of Institutional Compliance Patricia Hoen and Assistant Director of Research Administration Compliance Ben Bell presented on USC [Conflict of Interest Policies](#).
 - President Pecchenino opened conversation about strategies to improve Deans' engagement with Faculty Councils.

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