ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Meeting of April 19, 2023
Hybrid Meeting
2:00 - 4:00 pm PST


AGENDA

Call to Order
Academic Senate President Pecchenino called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

Welcome and approval of February meeting minutes
Secretary Young presented the February Academic Senate meeting minutes for approval.

Motion to approve February minutes. Seconded and passed. 23 in favor, 0 opposed, 2 abstentions.

First reading and discussion of proposed changes to Faculty Handbook
Co-chairs John Matsusaka and Ruth Wood presented the proposed changes to the Faculty Handbook and situated the conversation behind the committee’s work. Co-chair Matsusaka noted that there are various potential types of misconduct that are addressed, some of which are protected by law. He also explained that the Faculty Handbook is a consensus document issued by the President that must reflect various departments across the University including faculty and other interested parties of the administration. The work of this committee focused on Chapter 6, which details non-protected-class misconduct investigations. Co-chair Wood presented a process flow chart for involving faculty in misconduct investigations.

A conversation ensued surrounding definitions, timelines, COPR responsibilities, and oversight. There was general consensus that the proposed changes are an improvement over the current process.

The committee will work to reflect changes based on the discussions from the first read and submit revisions prior to the next Academic Senate meeting. President Pecchenino asked Senators to encourage people to read Chapter 6 and dialogue within their schools.
**Introduction of Candidates for 2023-24 Senate Executive Board**

President Pecchenino reminded the Senate that elections are now university-wide and that a timeline of the election would be shared in the following week. Senate Academic Vice President Margos Apostolos thanked Michele Medina and the Nominating Committee (including current President Dan Pecchenino, past President Tracey Tambascia, Secretary General Chrystal Young, Devon Brooks, Julie Nyquist, and Steve Hsu) for their work and asked Senators to encourage faculty in their schools to vote. She presented the slate of candidates for the Academic Senate Executive Board and the roles that are to be filled (Academic Vice President, Administrative Vice President, and Member-at-large).

**Discussion with Committee on Teaching and Learning (CTAL)**

Co-chairs Christine El Haddad and Carmen Lee presented the results, key findings, and recommendations of the survey on teaching and learning of students with disabilities. A discussion centered on questions of mental health disabilities, testing and classroom accommodations, orientation for students about available resources, and advance disclosure and centralized notification to faculty.

**Resolution on Compensation Disclosure and Policy**

President Pecchenino initiated a discussion around a resolution on Compensation Disclosure and Policy. As part of the resolution, the committee decided to focus on the Faculty Councils and empower them to request more open communication with regard to compensation information as now required by SB1162. One faculty member suggested adding a further ask to the resolution, namely the disclosure of mean salaries for each rank. The suggestion was not taken up after debate among the Senators.

**Motion by Senator Jim Clements to amend** Line 34 to read “BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Senate requests that the Provost instruct the Deans to work with their Faculty Councils to produce an annual report showing the faculty salary ranges they are required to provide to individuals under SB 1162.” Seconded and passed. 33 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

**Updates from Faculty Councils**

Updates from Faculty Councils were postponed to a later meeting.

**Reminders from President Pecchenino**

President Pecchenino reminded the body to RSVP for the Academic Senate Faculty Dinner on May 10th which will take place directly after the May meeting. He shared that the Merit Review Task Force would be presenting during the May meeting along with President Folt and members of her team about the University budget. Next year’s Executive Board will also be introduced at the May meeting and President Pecchenino reminded the body to be on the lookout for the election ballot via email.

**Adjournment**

President Pecchenino adjourned the meeting at 4:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christal Young
Secretary General of the Academic Senate