ACADEMIC SENATE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Meeting of March 22, 2023
Hybrid Meeting
2:00 - 4:00 pm PST


AGENDA

Call to Order

Academic Senate President Pecchenino called the meeting to order at 2:01 pm.

Welcome

President Pecchenino announced that due to some unavoidable issues, the February meeting minutes will be distributed and voted on along with the March meeting minutes at the April 19th Senate meeting.

Updates from the Executive Board

President Pecchenino introduced Michele Medina, the Senate’s new Office Manager, who joined the Senate from Viterbi. He also noted that the Executive Board is working on an end-of-year event to help set up the work of next year’s Senate and Faculty Councils.

Presentation from Employee Relations Advisory Group

Co-Chairs Tracy Tambascia, Kristi Culpepper, and Stacy Giwa presented on the work conducted by sub-committees and the advisory group on the Employee Relations for both staff and faculty. They also shared and further explained their final report and recommendations. Discussion included questions about processes, implementation, and consultation, as well as the relationship between this body’s recommendations and the ongoing work of the Faculty Handbook Committee. One Senator expressed concerns that perceived power dynamics between faculty and staff can lead to assumptions about who is at fault in a conflict. This concern was affirmed by other Senators, and the co-chairs acknowledged it.
Presentation from Research Committee

Co-Chairs Bodour Salhia and Darnell Cole presented updates on the University Research Committee and subcommittees. The committee identified areas that impact the efficiency and fairness of work and research environments across schools. Discussion affirmed the pain points identified by the committee, including concerns about the need for consistent staffing. President Pecchenino noted synergies between the committee’s work on postdocs and ongoing efforts in this space being led by Interim Vice Provost for Academic and Faculty Affairs Kelvin Davies.

Presentation from RTPC Faculty Affairs Committee

Co-Chairs Amber Foster and Reyes Enciso presented an update on the work conducted by the committee which has focused on opportunities for professional advancement for RTPC faculty. Their recommendation primarily focused on expansion of sabbatical/paid leave for professional activities. Discussion touched on how this proposal might impact existing sabbatical opportunities, what this might look like for different kinds of faculty, and how to ensure consistency across schools. One faculty member suggested that the committee develop an economic rationale for the proposal to make the case even more compelling.

Presentation from Faculty Environment and Employment Committee

Faculty Environment and Employee Committee Co-Chair Ruth Cislowski addressed the Senate to promote the committee’s survey of faculty who primarily work remotely. She noted that the committee had reached out to Deans of Faculty to obtain lists of remote faculty, and she encouraged Faculty Council chairs to help ensure that the survey reaches their colleagues who work remotely.

Adjournment

President Pecchenino adjourned the meeting at 4:04 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christal Young

Secretary General of the Academic Senate