

1 **ACADEMIC SENATE**

2 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

3 **December 13, 2023**

4 **Hybrid Meeting**

5 **2:00 - 4:00 pm PST**

6  
7 **Present (Senate Members):** S. Aguilar, M. Apostolos, D. Brooks, K. Carlson, A. Cannon, M.  
8 Chatterjee, T. D. Church, J. Dinalo, J. Dopheide, S. Dughmi, C. El-Haddad, S. Faris, N. Houser, S.  
9 Hsu, J. Israel, R. Jubran, S. Kim, M. Kong, V. Kuhn, R. Labaree, W. Mack, M. Mather, C.  
10 Neuman, S. Nye, L. Olvera, D. Pecchenino, L. Perin, M. Philadelphia, S. Rao, C. Resnik, A.  
11 Samkian, A. Siegel, J. Swift (V-Alternate for S. Barbot), L. Turcotte, M. Turner, A. Tzoytzoyrakos,  
12 D. Wadhwani (V-Alternate for M. Bayiz), J. Walker, E. Warford, A. Yang, C. Young

13 **Absent:** P. Adler, L. Alfaro, S. Altman, J. Armour, M. Aranda, J. Bankard, S. Barbot, M. Bayiz, D.  
14 Becker, C. M. Beckman, S. Bradforth, E. Brummel, J. Condon, A. Das, A. Dukes, N. Duquette, J.  
15 Ellenburg, S. Enguidanos, E. Fife, J. Godges, d. S. Grimes, S. Gruskin, A. Hollingshead, K.  
16 Imagawa, A. Imre, S. Iqbal, J. Jones, C. Kane, J. Kirschner, G. Kung, J. Kutch, D. Lainer-Vos, J.  
17 Lantz, C. Lee, D. Lee, L. Lewis, J. Lin, T.J. McCarthy, E. Mann, C. Martinez, L. Matchison, J.  
18 Matsusaka, M. Nadim, S. Niemiec, E. Ochi, R. Parke, J. Parr, T. Patel, G. Prieto Botana, B. Salhia,  
19 T. Sandmeier, G. Sanchez, K. Savla, C. Soto, W. Swartout, J. Urbano, A. Uyeshiro Simon, F. Valero  
20 Cuervas, K. Wilber, J. Wild

21 **Guests (Senate Members alternates & invited guests):** E. Accampo, A. Cheung, C. Folt, A.  
22 Guzman, H. Jaddoud, E. Jonekheere, H. Kaslo, M. Levine, C. Manning, J. Moore, R. Newmyer, R.  
23 Pak, I. Puri, S. Shroyer  
24

25 **AGENDA**

26  
27 **Call to order: Margo K. Apostolos, Senate President**

28 Academic Senate President Apostolos called the meeting to order at 2:07pm.

29 **Discussion with President Carol Folt and Provost Andrew Guzman**

30 President Folt gave a presentation on the work that has transpired in the Fall. Updates included  
31 student centers renovations and student demographics and highlights from the 144th class. She  
32 shared that there was a decision made via the Sustainability Hub to move away from fossil fuels  
33 and make an impact on climate change. President Folt signed an agreement with AltaSea, a  
34 dock located in the Port of Los Angeles dedicated to research collaborations in the harbor  
35 focusing on decarbonization. She also shared that admissions is up 5% in student interest and  
36 research is up to \$1.4 Billion. She announced that the strike was settled with the graduate  
37 union and gave credit to the bargaining team and the students. President Folt will cover  
38 additional announcements in the State of the University address.  
39

Provost Guzman gave a semester in review presentation on highlights and accomplishments during Fall 2023.

- Admissions & Affirmative Action Effort: We want to make sure that we're continuing to pay consistently with our values with respect to our admissions process.
- Online Education: We've distanced ourselves from 2U. The goal is to separate ourselves from the model as it gives us more control, it's a better financial model, and it avoids some of the challenges of dealing with these third-party vendors, who don't have little reason to hold our academic standards and what they do.
- DC Capital Campus: We've made good progress on the design of the campus including programming of the building, the physical design of the building, and thinking through how we're going to move forward to cover costs.
- Priority Goals for Spring 2024: Year of Implementation including Frontiers of Computing, LMS engagement and training, school budget discussions and goal setting, and Graduate Program debt analysis.

### **Presentation on Student Innovation Opportunities**

Ishwar Puri, Senior Vice President, Research and Innovation, shared the impetus for supporting a feeder pipeline that would accelerate launching startups for students. The program, which will include bootcamps and other activities, would feed into incubators that would launch 12 startups per year and would be available to faculty and students across the university.

#### **Q&A:**

- *A senator asked a question about any formal ways that allow students across schools might meet each other for interdisciplinary collaborations.* SVP Puri's office will serve as a facilitator but there are multiple ways to potentially bring students together.
- *A senator asked what is the current status of how we facilitate opportunities for collaboration among undergraduate students?* SVP Puri stated that we don't currently have an advanced infrastructure for these efforts.
- *Another senator asked what role [Techstars](#) will play in this initiative.* These players can serve one of two roles: 1) serve as an incubator accelerator or 2) engage as consultants in developing a catalyst program which will encompass bootcamps, weekend events, training, etc.

### **Presentation on University Demographics**

Christopher Manning, Chief Inclusion and Diversity Officer presented data on university demographics across multiple identity groups as well as multiple areas of the institution. The goal is to be able to contextualize the data and also to be able to find more opportunities for faculty and students' own inclusion. He shared that this information will be available via a combination of demographic charts and reports at [diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu) in mid-January 2024. He gathered feedback from the dashboards presented and will include additional technical notes to improve how the information is presented.

### **Announcements**

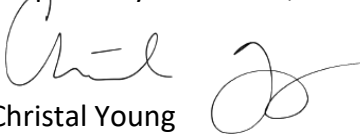
84 There will be a schedule of senator reports beginning in February.

85

86 **Adjournment**

87 President Apostolos adjourned the meeting at 4:03pm.

88 Respectfully submitted,

89 

90 Christal Young

91 Secretary General of the Academic Senate

92

APPROVED