

1 **ACADEMIC SENATE**

2 **UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA**

3 February 21, 2024

4 Hybrid Meeting

5 2:00 - 4:00 pm PST

6
7 **Present (Senate Members):** P. Adler, S. Altman, M. Anderson, M. Apostolos, M. Aranda, S.
8 Barbot, M. Bayiz, D. Becker, M. Bodie, A. Cannon, K. Carlson, M. Chatterjee, T. Church, A. Das, J.
9 Dinalo, J. Dopheid, Sh. Dughmi, N. Duquette, C. El-Haddad, J. Ellenburg, S. Faris, E. Fife, D. S.
10 Grimes, S. Gruskin, S. Hsu, K. Imagawa, S. Iqbal, R. Jubran, S. Kim, M. Kong, D. Lee, B.
11 Lembrugber, J. Lin, W. Mack, L. Matchison, J. Matsusaka, M. Nadim, C. Neuman, S. Nye, L.
12 Olvera, T. Patel, D. Pecchenino, L. Perin, M. Philadelphia, C. Pike, G. Prieto Botana, S. Rao, C.
13 Resnik, A. Samkian, A. Siegel, C. Soto, L. Turcotte, M. Turner, A. Tzoytzoyrakos, J. Urbano, J.
14 Walker, J. Wild, A. Yang, C. Young

15 **Guests (Senate Members alternates & invited guests):** S. Aguilar, A. Ahmadih, L. Alfaro, D.
16 Armstrong, J. Armour, J. Bankard, C. Beckman, S. Bradforth, D. Brooks, E. Brummel, A. Cheung,
17 J. Cohen, J. Condon, A. Dukes, K. Eden Dukes, A. Dyer, S. Enguidanos, N. Esnaashari, J. Godges,
18 A. Green, S. Gupta, A. Guzman, A. Hollingshead, A. Imre, J. Israel, H. Jaddoud, J. Jones, C. Kane,
19 J. Kirschner, G. Kung, J. Kutch, R. Labaree, J. Lantz, C. Lee, M. Levine, L. Lewis, T.J. McCarthy, H.
20 Magid, G. Malhotra, E. Mann, C. Martinez, M. Mather, R. Newmyer, S. Niemiec, E. Ochi, R.
21 Parke, J. Parr, R. Romans, B. Salhia, G. Sanchez, A. Smith, T. Sandmeier, K. Savla, S. Shroyer, A.
22 Uyeshireo Simon, W. Swartout, J. Swift, F. Valero-Cueva, D. Lainer-Vos, D. Wadhvani, E.
23 Warford, K. Wilber, A. Wong,

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26 **AGENDA**

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

29 Academic Senate President Apostolos called the meeting to order at 2:04pm.

30 **Discussion with Provost Andrew Guzman**

31 Provost Guzman provided updates on the following areas:

- 32 ● Israel/Gaza situation and campus protests
- 33 ● Zoom Etiquette
- 34 ○ Make sure everyone understands who is in charge; who has the authority and
- 35 technical ability to mute/remove people.
- 36 ○ If the chat stream evolves into toxicity, turn it off.

- 37 ● The most valuable tool we have has been good communication about planned events.
38 We have been very successful with regard to collaboration
- 39 ● When people say that they feel unsafe, it is not physical, it's a lack of ability to be in this
40 community and feel comfortable and secure. Keep in mind that we are in a diverse,
41 heterogeneous community where people have lots of views on different things. We
42 value that diversity and differentness. Be conscious of the need to avoid discrimination,
43 racism, etc. Because we can't protect ourselves from outside forces and we can't create
44 a world where those things don't exist, but we can create a community where the
45 negative aspects of that have the lowest effect possible.
- 46 ● Provost Guzman encouraged faculty to not hesitate to bring concerns to EEO-TIX.

47 48 Q&A

- 49 - President Apostolos asked what happens when an issue is brought to EEO-TIX. Provost
50 Guzman responded that there's no single answer and that it depends on the issue.
- 51 - Immediate Past President Pecchenino asked whether we have seen an uptick in formal
52 complaints to retaliation. Provost Guzman shared that more complaints have been
53 submitted but he does not have specific numbers.
- 54 - Provost Guzman shared that Stacy Giwa has taken a leadership role over the DEI office.
55 He continued to share that we have a commitment to DEI and the pieces that go with it
56 that are undiminished. That remains central.
- 57 - Provost Guzman also addressed a question regarding what is meant by safety and how
58 to ensure that our students and community feel safe and how we communicate a
59 culture of safety.

60 61 **LMS Presentation**

62 Bright Space Organizational Change Management and Adoption Leads, Katelin Eden Dukes and
63 Allison Dyer, Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Engineering, Sandeep Gupta, ,
64 and Interim Associate Chief Information Officer, Ashley Smith gave a presentation on
65 Brightspace transition updates.

66
67 Professor of Clinical Professor of Communication, Assistant Dean for Excellence in Teaching,
68 Carmen Lee shared her experience with the LMS, stating that it is flexible in its utility and
69 intuitive. She also shared that it is important to recognize that faculty will have to spend some
70 time in their class, expecting to spend a couple hours tuning up their class, and to take this as
71 an opportunity not just to switch platforms but to rethink learning outcomes and what faculty
72 want out of their class.

73
74 Faculty are reminded to save course content by June 28 if you need something readily available.

75 A senator asked where to save course content. Ashley will follow up and report back.

76 A senator asked when the short training resources will be available.

77

78 **Faculty Awards Nominations**

79 Jessica Parr, Co-Chair of the Senate Awards Committee, announced the call for names for two
80 awards for this year. Senator Parr encouraged councils to nominate colleagues from their
81 schools. The Distinguished Faculty Service Award honors faculty service related to governance
82 through a life-time of service (typically 10 or more years). The Walter Wolf Award is bestowed
83 upon a USC faculty member for defense and advocacy for academic freedom or other
84 manifestations of social conscience. Submissions must include: a bulleted list of what the
85 faculty member has done in their career, a copy of their CV, and a brief statement on their
86 contributions to the USC community. Please email parr@email.usc.edu, jarmour@law.usc.edu,
87 and cc medinami@usc.edu with your nominations.

88

89 **WASC Re-Accreditation**

90 Robin Romans Associate Vice Provost for Arts and Academic Affairs provided an update on
91 USC's re-accreditation (<https://accreditation.usc.edu/>). He shared that we receive a 10 year
92 reaccreditation and provided information about shared governance. WASC issued an action
93 letter with 6 recommendations. The University's response is due November 2025

- 94 1. Look generally at the culture journey. WASC saw it as a journey and steps to address
95 some of the previous issues.
- 96 2. Wanted to see more faculty guidance and leadership in the culture journey.
- 97 3. Wanted us to sharpen our notion of shared governance. It would be nice if there were
98 greater attention paid to what shared governance means at USC, clarity, how it's
99 perceived, and how that translates to strengthening the faculty's voice.
- 100 4. How do we deal with that inclusive spirit with regards to organizational development
101 and the effectiveness overall of how we deal with inclusivity and DEI.
- 102 5. Convergence. WASC wanted to make sure that students aren't getting slowed in their
103 progress.
- 104 6. Asked to look at greater academic expertise on the Board of Trustees.

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106 Vice Provost and Senior Advisor, Marty Levine and Senate Past President, Dan Pecchenino
107 added context and history behind current Academic Senate Executive Board involvement on
108 Board of Trustee committees. Past President Pecchenino posited a recommendation to change
109 the title from Observer to Ex-Officio member.

110 A senator suggested putting faculty on the BOT. Pecchenino asked "what do we imagine that
111 person would do?" A conversation ensued around what the relationship of the faculty with the
112 university should be.

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Discussion with Director of Athletics, Jen Cohen and Alan Green

Director Cohen shared 4 themes of focus

1. Organizational health. There has been a lot of change in the athletics program.
2. Big10 transition. Dr. Green is chairing the Misclass policy committee. 40% (250) of our student athletes are impacted by Big10 travel. Being strategic about travel. Looking at the integration piece. She addressed their focus on competitiveness in order to live up to the standards of excellence.
3. Moonshot vision - There are a number of facility projects underway.
4. Navigating the changing landscape of USC athletics. What's our strategy for NIL. Facing litigation.

President Pecchenino asked about how faculty could get more involved in the Big10. Have Bob come back out to talk about collaboration.

A senator asked about USC's role in trying to address issues surrounding the NIL transfer portal.

A senator asked how big the impact of travel is in terms of support for study and change in schedules. Director Cohen shared that we haven't decided whether academic support would travel and will decide once the schedules have been received. In particular women's basketball and baseball will travel full conference seasons.

Announcements

- There will be a joint Provost and Academic Senate webinar: "AI and the Future of Higher Education" on February 28, 2-4pm.
- The March Academic Senate Meeting will take place on the Health Science Campus on Wednesday, March 20th.

Adjournment

President Apostolos adjourned the meeting at 4:03pm.

Respectfully submitted,



Christal Young

Secretary General of the Academic Senate