

ACADEMIC SENATE
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

May 8, 2024
UPC/Hybrid Meeting
2:00 - 4:00 pm PST

Present (Senate Members): S. Altman, M. Andersen, M. Apostolos, M. Aranda, S. Barbot, M. Bayiz, D. Becker, M. Bodie, G. Prieto Botana, K. Carlson, M. Chatterjee, T. David Church, J. Dinalo, N. Duquette, C. El Haddad, E. Fife, S. Gruskin, S. Hsu, K. Imagawa, R. Jubran, S. Kim, M. Kong, B. Lemgruber, J. Lin, J. Matsusaka, M. Nadim, C. Neuman, S. Schepens Niemiec, S. Nye, L. Olvera, T. Patel, D. Pecchenino, L. Perin, M. Philadelphia, C. Pike, S. Rao, L. Turcotte, M. Turner, A. Tzoytzoyrakos, J. Walker, J. Wild, A. Yang, C. Young

Guests (Senate Members alternates & invited guests): P. Adler, A. Ahmadiéh, J. Armour, D. Armstrong, S. Bradforth, A. Cheung (Chief of Staff - Provost), J. Dopheide, N. Esnaashari, C. Folt (President), A. Guzman (Provost), A. Hollingshead, A. Imre, J. Jones, C. Kane, B. Kim (SVP and General Counsel), J. Kirschner, G. Kung, R. Labaree, M. Levine (Vice Provost and Senior Advisor to the Provost), L. Lewis, T.J. McCarthy, H. Magid, G. Malhotra, R. Newmyer, E. Ochi, R. Pak (Chief of Staff - President), J. Parr, K. Savla, S. Shroyer, W. Swartout, J. Swift, E. Warford

AGENDA

Call to order: Margo K. Apostolos, Senate President

Academic Senate President Apostolos called the meeting to order at 2:05pm.

Approval of February Meeting Minutes

Secretary Young presented the [February](#) Academic Senate meeting minutes for approval.

Motion to approve February minutes. Seconded and passed.

Introduction of 2024-2025 Academic Senate Executive

Academic Senate President announced results of the election for the [2024-2025 Academic Senate Executive Board](#). Lorraine Turcotte (Dornsife) was elected Academic Vice President for 2024-2025 and will go on to serve as Senate President for 2025-2026. Clifford Neuman (Viterbi) was elected to serve a two-year term as Secretary General. Elected to serve a one-year term as members-at-large were Sophia Gruskin (Keck & Gould), Grace Kung (Keck), John Matsusaka (Marshall), and Miki Turner (Annenberg).

President Apostolos will continue on as Immediate Past President, and Christine El-Haddad will continue on as Administrative Vice President.

Final Discussion of Faculty Handbook Amendments & Resolution

- Co-chairs John Matsusaka and Steve Bradforth presented [friendly amendments](#) and final discussion to revisions of the faculty handbook. A resolution was presented and a minor edit was suggested to correct a spelling error on Line 14.
- ***Motion to accept resolution.*** Passed.
- [Resolution 23/24-01](#)

Discussion with President Carol Folt and Provost Andrew T. Guzman

President Folt shared expressions behind her actions regarding decision making.

Provost Guzman

- Spoke about decisions in relation to encampments
- Addressed the university's established disciplinary process that we are obligated to enforce.
- Interim suspensions ensured that the appeals process is accelerated as much as possible. Graduating students are able to participate in their commencement celebrations.
- Both sides are represented in a robust way. He doesn't think it's possible to have a deep serious conversation if one side is not represented.
- They have seen a dramatic spike in the last few months from students in the classroom who have felt excluded, unsafe, etc. Our responsibility is to teach and work with students in a way that allows them to hold their views in a way that is represented. Would like to entertain a symposium on academic freedom.
- He shared that this is hard and we understand that our decisions will lead to frustrations. We are all doing our level best to find a way through this moment that is best for USC and that we're doing this with all of our effort and in good faith.

The President and the Provost answered questions from the faculty.

Open Discussion

Further discussion ensued to consider next steps.

Motion to vote no confidence in President Folt and Provost Guzman. Seconded.

Discussion: Defined difference between vote of no confidence versus censure.

Motion to table. Seconded and passed.

Vice President Jubran presented a resolution from the Senate Executive Board to create a "Task Force to Investigate and Report on Recent Events"

Motion to table resolution. Seconded. 18 in favor, 10 opposed, 3 abstentions.

Motion to censure Provost and President. Seconded. A resolution was provided to the body for discussion.

A friendly amendment was made to include a clause for the immediate creation of a task force.

21 in favor, 7 opposed, 6 abstention - Passed

[Approved Resolution 23/24-02](#)

Adjournment

President Apostolos adjourned the meeting at 4:56pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Christal Young', followed by a large, stylized flourish or scribble.

Christal Young

Secretary General of the Academic Senate

May 2024 Minutes approved by the academic Senate on 18 September 2024
(20 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions).