

1 **ACADEMIC SENATE**

2 **Resolution 24/25-01**

3 **Financial Transparency, Open Communication, and Shared Governance**

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5 WHEREAS open communication – active listening and clear, timely, honest, and accessible sharing of  
6 information – constitute one of the University’s Unifying Values ([https://usc.edu/we-are-usc/the-](https://usc.edu/we-are-usc/the-university/values)  
7 [university/values](https://usc.edu/we-are-usc/the-university/values)); and

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9 WHEREAS University officials have shared little concrete information with faculty about the specifics of  
10 the University’s financial situation and the costs of alternative options to address its current structural  
11 deficit; and

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13 WHEREAS the principle of shared governance requires faculty consultation before making significant  
14 financial decisions that affect the faculty and the academic mission, and genuine consultation requires  
15 the sharing of information that is relevant for decisions; and

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17 WHEREAS the Academic Senate believes that all available options should be considered, and the  
18 potential impact of policy choices should be discussed with faculty and distributed fairly across the  
19 University; therefore

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21 BE IT RESOLVED that the Academic Senate urges the Administration to be transparent and  
22 forthcoming with information related to the University’s financial situation and the options that are  
23 being considered to address it.  
24 Specifically, we call on the Administration to:

- 25  
26 1. Provide detailed and concrete financial information on university expenditure and revenues –  
27 current, past, and forecasted – sufficiently disaggregated (such as by school and function) to  
28 enable a shared understanding of the sources and causes of the expected revenue shortfalls to be  
29 achieved (that includes, at a minimum, the information that was provided in the annual USC  
30 Financial Reports that were issued 1999-2018: [https://comptroller.usc.edu/annual-financial-](https://comptroller.usc.edu/annual-financial-reports/)  
31 [reports/](https://comptroller.usc.edu/annual-financial-reports/)) ; and
- 32  
33 2. Provide detailed and concrete financial information on potential policy options to address the  
34 financial situation (such as changes in compensation, benefits, programs, staffing, capital projects,  
35 student aid, etc.) and how the effects of the different options would be distributed across the  
36 University, prior to decision-making and socialization; and
- 37  
38 3. After sharing information on the full set of potential strategies to enhance revenue and contain  
39 costs, consult with the faculty about which strategies to pursue; and
- 40  
41 4. Recognizing there might be identified issues of confidentiality not shareable to the broader senate,  
42 any financial information deemed confidential will still be provided to the Committee on Finances  
43 and Enrollment and/or other faculty bodies and not withheld from these bodies, according to a  
44 process that will be developed with the Executive Board of the Academic Senate.

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47 Resolution Number: 24/25-01  
48 Submitted by: Andrea B. Hollingshead  
49 Moved to approve: Marlon Boarnet  
50 Seconded by: Gautam Malhotra  
51 Date: December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024 submitted to Senators;  
52 December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 (Discussion and Vote)  
53 Action taken: 30 Yes, 2 No, 0 Abstention