

ACADEMIC SENATE

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

December 11, 2024

UPC/DML 121

2:00 - 4:00 pm PST

Present and online (Voting Senate Members): Rima Jubran (president), Lorraine Turcotte (academic vice president), Christine El Haddad (administrative vice president), Margo K. Apostolos (immediate past president), Clifford Neuman (secretary general), John Matsusaka (executive board), Grace Kung (executive board), Sofia Gruskin (executive board), Miki Turner (executive board), Andrea Hollingstead, Lee Schyler Olvera, Mari Kong, Stacey Schepens Niemiec, Elizabeth Mann, Anastassia Tzoytzoyrakos, Elizabeth Blomstedt, Jennifer Swift, Lodovico Pizzati, Susan Enguidanos, Gautam Malhotra, Hoda Abdel Magid, Kristian Carlson, Nasrin Esnaashari, Susie Kim, Terry David Church, Mike Andersen, Bruno Lemgruber, Artineh Samkian, Marlon Boarnet, Will Coppola, Christy Kane, Ivan Bermejo-Moreno, Micheal Bodie, Tom Bell Davidson, Kristi Lewton, Margaret Trost, Bill Leach, Karen Kay Imagawa, Scott Joslin.

Present and online (Non-voting Alternates, Ex-officio, Speakers, Guests): Nina Kang, Stephanie Shroyer, Jane Steinberg, Amirali Mirenayat, Elinor Accampo, Gale Sinatra, Mick Dalrymple, François Bar, Gisele Ragusa, Aro Velmet, Sean Powell, Clarissa Moreno, Shubha Kumar, Harvey Kaslow, Cristina Visperas, Amber Foster, Hannah Findling, Christina Dunbar-Hester, Teal Eich, Laura Serna, Christina Runge, Kathleen Haase, Sharon Carnicke, Paula Cannon, Rebecca Lonergan, Martin Levine, Jill Sohmt, Diego Lopez, Kelsey Vukic, Brigid Fennell, James Moore.

PROCEEDINGS

Call to order: Rima Jubran, Senate President

Academic Senate President Rima Jubran called the meeting to order at 2:00pm.

Sustainability Education Proposal from President's Working Group on Sustainability

The first item on the agenda was a proposal by the Presidential Working Group on Sustainability. Mick Dalrymple, Hannah Findling, Rebecca Lonergan, Gale Sinatra, and Jill Sohmt introduced a sustainability graduation requirement for all undergraduates. [Presentation slides](#) are available on the Senate Website. The proposed graduation requirement is not a general education requirement but a course tagged as a sustainability class, which can be part of any curriculum. The committee views sustainability as encompassing environmental, social, and economic issues, addressing global challenges like climate change, and preparing students for a future where sustainability skills are crucial.

The committee considered and dismissed a single required course and a general education requirement in favor of a more flexible approach. Students can fulfill the requirement through various courses relevant to their interests and majors without adding extra units. Some concerns were raised about the potential difficulty in administering this new requirement and handling similar future proposals.

Over the summer and fall, the committee engaged in discussions with stakeholders to gain support for the proposal. They now seek support from the academic senate in the form of a resolution, which will be introduced before the next meeting, with a vote requested at the January meeting.

Approval of November Meeting Minutes

The Secretary General presented the November Academic Senate meeting minutes. There was a proposed amendment to document that some individuals expressed frustration with the level of transparency provided by the administration in the November discussion. A motion was made by Lorraine Turcotte to approve the minutes as amended and the motion was seconded by Bruno Lemgruber. The minutes were accepted with a vote of 29 in favor, 0 against, and 3 abstentions.

Resolution on Financial Transparency, Open Communication, and Shared Governance

Andrea B. Hollingshead had previously introduced a resolution concerning Financial Transparency, Open Communication, and Shared Governance. This resolution was deliberated upon, with various suggested changes from faculty councils being discussed. Some amendments were accepted, while others were still under discussion as the meeting drew to a close. A motion was made by François Bar, and seconded by Gautam Malhotra to convey the current state of discussions as the resolution and to promptly communicate the faculty's concerns. The resolution was passed 30 yes, 2 no, and no abstentions. That resolution is posted on the academic senate web site as [Senate Resolution 24-25-01](#).

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford Neuman

Secretary General of the Academic Senate

(minutes approved by Academic Senate on 2/19/2025 [24 for, 0 against, 0 abstentions])
(portions of these minutes were drafted using Zoom's AI Companion and Microsoft Copilot)