

ACADEMIC SENATE

# DRAFT MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

March 26, 2025

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), Miki Turner (executive board), Hoda Abdel Magid, Mike Andersen, Ivan Bermejo-Moreno, Marlon Boarnet, Michael Bodie, Amy Cannon, Kristian Carlson, Aninda Das, Julie Dopheide, Susan Enguidanos, Elizabeth Fife, Sofia Gruskin, Andrea Hollingshead, Steve Hsu, Karen Kay Imagawa, Christy Kane, Mayank Kejriwal, Susie Kim, Mari Kong, William Leach, Bruno Lemgruber, Kristi Lewton, Yihyun Lim, Jef Pearlman, Marion Philadelphia, Goretti Prieto Botana, Artineh Samkian, Stacey Schepens Niemiec, Lee Schyler Olvera, Stephanie Shroyer, Jennifer Swift, Anastassia Tzoytzoyrakos, Jerome Walker, Sibyl Wickersheimer.

**Present and online (Non-voting Alternates, Ex-officio, Speakers, Guests):** Jason Buhle, Aisling Kelliher, Paul Adler, Aniko Imre, Jessica Parr, Naomi Warren, Grace Baranek, Sharon Carnicke, Christina Dunbar-Hester, Amber Foster, Erik Johnson, Harvey Kaslow, Shubha Kumar, Robert Labaree, Martin Levine, Lynda McGinnis, James Moore, Howard Rodman, Christina Runge, Laura Serna, Kelsey Vukic, Jennifer Silverman, Jill McNitt-Gray, Sean Campbell, Stacy Giwa, Dawn Kennedy, Candice Mattio, Chrisandra Kufeldt, Milan Miric, Eden Goldman, Morteza Dehghani, Robin Romans, Stephanie Mielke, Pavitra Kavva, Suh Chen Hsiao, Michael Thom, Steve Bucher, Tony Shayne, Liz Phelps, Keanan Duffty, Gerald Davison, Sophie Lesinska, Sara Hoffman, Jason Zevin, Becky Heino, Hannah Schilperoort, Lanita Jacobs, Wolf Gruner, Gordon Stables, Didi Matthews, Sucheta Joshi, Jessica Gambling, Alexis Wellwood, Steven Sussman, Kim Siegmund, Sue Luftschein.

## PROCEEDINGS

**Call to order: Rima Jubran Academic Senate President**

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

## **Discussion with Carol Folt, President and Andrew Guzman, Provost on financial pressures and USC's response and engagement with policy makers.**

President Folt, Provost Guzman, and Samuel Garrison, Senior Vice President, University Relations, discussed USC's approach to advocacy and engagement with government officials in light of recent executive orders and legislative changes. President Folt and Samuel Garrison explained that USC has been actively building relationships with legislators at federal, state, and local levels. They emphasize the importance of personal connections and being willing to engage in dialogue. USC has joined consortiums like the Big 10 and AAU to collaborate with other universities on these issues. The university is responding to congressional inquiries while ensuring compliance with laws like FERPA. They are also analyzing potential impacts of new policies on higher education and research funding. The creation of the Trojan Caucus in Congress is highlighted as a new platform for engagement.

The university is preparing to certify that it does not maintain any unlawful DEI programs, and is working closely with each dean and central administrative unit to review their programs and practices. The university is also preparing for potential enforcement actions from the Attorney General targeting university endowments. The university's policy on responding to immigration enforcement actions was discussed, as well as the importance of academic freedom and free speech.

### **USC Financial Challenges**

Provost Guzman discussed the financial challenges facing USC and the university's proactive approach to address potential budget shortfalls. President Folt explained that USC is anticipating significant reductions in indirect costs from grants and changes in international student enrollment, which could result in hundreds of millions of dollars in losses. The university is taking preemptive measures to cut costs and build reserves, including freezing salaries and reducing budgets across central administration and schools. Provost Guzman provided some details on the budget situation and the rationale for acting now rather than waiting for the financial impact to materialize further. It was stated that the central administration has shouldered a much higher reduction in budget than the individual schools, but it was also pointed out that much of the past growth of central administration, was largely driven by compliance and legal requirements. The faculty expressed concerns about the impact of these cuts on their salaries and the university's commitment to supporting its faculty and staff.

### **Academic Senate Bylaws and constitution**

The Academic Senate voted to approve the bylaws changes that were presented at a previous meeting (and which are posted on the Senate website meeting). The motion to accept the revisions was made by Lorraine Turcotte and Seconded by Susie Kim. The motion passed 27 for none against and two abstentions.

Proposed changes to the Senate Constitution were discussed (those changes are posted on the Senate Website meetings page). These changes include clarifications and updates to reflect current practices. These changes will be up for a vote at a future senate meeting.

Loraine Turcotte presented the slate of candidates for upcoming senate elections, including positions for academic vice president, administrative vice president, and members at large. The nominated candidates are: For Academic Vice President Christine El-Haddad, Marshall School of Business. Eva Kansa, Viterbi School of Engineering, John Matsusaka, Marshall School of Business, for Administrative Vice President, Rob Filback, Rossier School of Education, Jessica Parr, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Tanvi Patel, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and Stephanie Payne, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. For member at large of the Executive Board, Sylvain Barbot, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Christopher Gerald Bresnahan, Marshall School of Business, Andrew Campbell, Roski School of Art and Design, Kristian Carlson, Keck School of Medicine Monalisa Chatterjee, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, Jennifer Dinalo, USC Libraries, Juliana Kirshner, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism Courtney Malloy, Rossier School of Education, Melissa Miller, USC Libraries, James Moore, Viterbi School of Engineering, Artineh Samkian, Rossier School of Education, and Myra (Miki) Penelope Turner, Annenberg School for Communication and Journalism.

### **Approval of February Minutes**

The minutes from the February academic senate meeting were presented. Motion to approve the minutes with minor changes was made by Rima Jubran and seconded by Micheal Bodie. The minutes of the February meeting were approved as amended by a vote of 23 in favor, 0 against, and 3 abstentions.

### **Senate Updates**

Updates were provided regarding inquiries about USC's data retention policies and campus security measures and an invitation was extended for senators to submit questions for an upcoming meeting with university leadership.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:52PM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford Neuman

Secretary General of the Academic Senate

(minutes approved by Academic Senate on ???)

(portions of these minutes were drafted using Zoom's AI Companion)