

ACADEMIC SENATE

MINUTES

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

February 19, 2025
HSC/HC4 MPR 3200
2:00 - 4:00 pm PST

Present and online (Voting Senate Members): 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), Hoda Abdel Magid, Mahsa Alavi, Mike Andersen, Marlon Boarnet, Michael Bodie, Amy Cannon, Kristian Carlson, Julie Dopheide, Susan Enguidanos, Nasrin Esnaashari, Elizabeth Fife, Andrea Hollingshead, Steve Hsu, Karen Kay Imagawa, Christy Kane, Susie Kim, Mari Kong, Bill Leach, Bruno Lemgruber, Gautam Malhotra, Ivan Bermejo-Moreno, Jef Pearlman, Marion Philadelphia, Artineh Samkian, Stacey Schepens Niemiec, Lee Schyler Olvera, Stephanie Shroyer, Aneesa Smith, Renee Smith-Maddox, Jennifer Swift, Margaret Trost, Miki Turner, Anastassia Tzoytzoyrakos, Jerome Walker.

Present and online (Non-voting Alternates, Ex-officio, Speakers, Guests): Ishwar Puri, Marty Levine, Steve Shapiro, Erin Overstreet, Jason Buhle, Aisling Kelliher, Ketan Savla, Christina Dunbar-Hester, Brigid Fennell, Harvey Kaslow, Robert Labaree, James Moore, Alisa Sanchez, Kelsey Vukic, Naomi Warren, Sarah Townsend, Christina Chkarboul, Rebecca Fullan, Carrie Breton, Jennifer Silverman, Jennifer Shaffer, Jill McNitt-Gray, Tracy Jalaba.

PROCEEDINGS

Call to order: Lorraine Turcotte, Senate Academic Vice President

Senate Academic Vice President Lorraine Turcotte called the meeting to order at 2:03pm.

Discussion with Steve Shapiro, Senior Vice President for Health Affairs

Senior Vice President for Health Affairs Steve Shapiro discussed the current challenges facing the university, including budget, executive orders, and potential changes to indirect cost rates. He emphasized the need for preparedness and flexibility in response to these challenges. He discussed concerns about faculty and staff job security, and about diversity and inclusion initiatives and the potential impact on medical education and residency programs. He encouraged open communication and feedback from the faculty and staff.

Discussion with Ishwar Puri, Vice President for Research and Innovation

Vice president of research and innovation, Ishwar Puri, discussed USC's \$1.26 billion in research expenditures and the impact of recent executive orders. A significant portion of those funds come from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Department of Defense. Ishwar further discussed the potential long-term impacts of the executive orders on indirect cost recovery rates and the impact on the distribution of funds within the university. He warned that the potential long-term effects of the executive orders could be significant, with a potential decrease of 94 million dollars in indirect cost recovery if the NIH 15% flat rate is applied.

There was discussion of the university's approach to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) research in light of recent executive orders, emphasizing that academic freedom still applies, but researchers working on DEI topics may not be able to use federal or institutional funds. He advised faculty to be careful with language in grant proposals and offered support in connecting researchers with alternative funding sources. He also addressed concerns about paused grants and media inquiries related to DEI research. He mentioned that the university is working to clarify the situation with federal agencies and advocated for allowing PIs to re-budget existing grants if needed.

Presentation regarding updates to the University's IP Policy

Erin Overstreet, Executive Director, USC Stevens Center for Innovation, provided an overview of pending updates to USC's Intellectual Property Policies. She indicated that the policy, which hadn't been updated since 2001, would now increase the inventor's share of royalties in most cases from 33% to 40%, making USC more competitive with peer institutions. The new policy would also address AI-generated works, open-source projects, and clarify the treatment of scholarly works, including games. The language has been clarified regarding when USC owns IP and when it doesn't. USC would own most IP generated by its employees on campus, especially if it involves significant resources or funding from the university. She also clarified that students own their IP if they are enrolled for credit and use minimal university resources. Erin highlighted the updated definitions of significant and incidental use of university resources, and the exceptions for traditional academic works and student IP. The policy is currently undergoing a formal review process. While the policy is written in legal language, they plan to create more accessible guidance documents for general understanding.

Faculty Concerns: There was some discussion by faculty suggesting that as a legal document that affects the rights and privileges of faculty that there might be a need for independent legal advice. It was mentioned that the policy is binding and incorporated into the faculty handbook, which affects faculty contracts. There was a question about the consultation process with the Academic Senate, particularly how it would be formalized. The process started with the University Research Committee and involved

input from various sources. It was suggested that the process might be similar to the faculty handbook changes, involving a committee, suggestions, and final approval.

Approval of the December 2024 and January 2025 meeting minutes

The Secretary General presented the December 2024 Academic Senate meeting minutes. A motion was made by Lorraine Turcotte to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Guatam Malhotra. The minutes were accepted with a vote of 24 in favor, 0 against, and 0 abstentions.

The Secretary General presented the January 2025 Academic Senate meeting minutes. A motion was made by Lorraine Turcotte to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Susie Kim. The minutes were accepted with a vote of 23 in favor, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Clifford Neuman

Secretary General of the Academic Senate

(minutes approved by Academic Senate on 26 March 2025)

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