

Minutes of the Dornsife College Faculty Council Meeting

January 14 , 2015

3:00-5:00 pm

Present: Eric Webb (President), Darren Ruddell (Vice President), Jeff Chisum (Secretary), Jason Fulman, Brian Rathbun, Giorgio Coricelli, Ann Crigler, Lowell Stott, Wiebke Ziebis, Gerald Davison, Erin Moore, Thieo Hogan-Esch, Dana Johnson

1. Approval / Review of Minutes from the 12/3 Meeting: Some minor revisions were requested of the minutes from the December 2014 meeting. Secretary Chisum agreed to make the changes.

2. Review of the 12/10 Senate Meeting: Wiebke Ziebis provided a summary of the topics covered at the 12/10/14 meeting of the Faculty Senate. Highlights included:

- Questions about student evaluations of faculty. Might there be a shift from quantitative to more qualitative evals? There is a strong desire to continue the conversation on this topic.
- Some discussion of USC's new "Retirement Navigator" system, and the options for early retirement.
- Comments/criticism pertaining to the "slots" system of graduate funding, versus the old "block" system, which is largely seen as being more effective.
- Questions about increasingly shrinking parking availability—including spots for people with disabilities.
- Questions about new GE courses, and whether they've been approved yet or not (Interim Provost Quick agreed to look into it).
- Discussion of USC's connection to globalization and our international student populations.
- Reports from the Chairs of Faculty Councils at Keck, Architecture, and Sol Price.
- A reminder about the upcoming (late January) Provost's Retreat, and a request for senate members to (re-) familiarize themselves with the Strategic Plan/Transformation website, and to think about "best practices."

3. Update on General Faculty Affairs Caucus: Chair Gerald Davison reported some difficulty in recruiting enough people to fill out the desired 8 members of the caucus. Chair Davison noted that the Caucus has observed a lot of frustration with the College's technology infrastructure: lack of user-friendliness, missing adapters, lack of an easy-to-use support structure, and so on. Once again, cumbersome funding processes (for new computers, travel to conferences, etc.) was cited as an area of concern. The Chair agreed to draft a memo to the Dean outlining these concerns.

4. Union Activity on Campus: Several Council members noted that they have observed an uptick in SEIU (Service Employee International Union) activity on campus, with one member noting that his wife (NTT at another institution) had been visited at home by union representatives. President Webb noted that this merits discussion on two fronts:

--Issues pertaining to NTT job security and other areas of concern
--Issues related to the shift in overall faculty composition from majority tenure-track to majority non-tenure-track.

5. A Brief Recap of the Visit from Vice Dean Lamy: Some Council members, in the wake of Lamy's visit, felt that there could be greater clarity on the process involved in applying to teach in the new GE system.

6. Concluding Remarks: The council agreed to continue to work to flesh out the membership of the caucuses—possibly via a College-wide email. Members of the Research Caucus wanted better clarity of purpose; the issue of pilot money was again raised as a worthwhile goal for the caucus this semester.

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Chisum
Secretary, Dornsife Faculty Council