

## Minutes of the Dornsife College Faculty Council Meeting

October 1, 2014

3:00-5:00 pm

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

**1. A Visit from Dean Kay:** The council was visited by the Dean of Dornsife College, Steve Kay. He spoke with the DFC for an hour and a half on a variety of topics. Some of the highlights included:

--Some comments pertaining to the 6% re-allocation of budget money. Dean Kay noted that Ted Budge was leaving Dornsife to take a job at the Keck School of Medicine, and that two new people were being hired to replace him: a Director of Operations and a Director of Finance / CFO.

--The Dean spent some time discussing some of the budgetary challenges he faced upon being hired by USC.

--He reiterated the fact that Dornsife is funded almost entirely by student tuition (~91%).

--Kay noted that the “6%”, within the College, would be re-channeled into (among other things): award and grant management, H.R. concerns (such as taking care of visas), and faculty recruitment.

--The Dean discussed potential re-organization of different parts of the College, such as some of the departments presently housed in Taper Hall.

-- Members of the DFC asked the Dean to discuss revisions to the G.E. curriculum. He praised Dean Lamy’s work on behalf of the college and noted that the College will play a critical role in overseeing the new developments, including having “first dibs” on course offerings.

--In regards to graduate student education, Dean Kay noted that there are no plans to stop any of the current PhD programs, and he also mentioned some shifts in the way that graduate education will be funded, notably in the area of stipends of “slots” for graduate students.

--The council asked the Dean to speak for a moment on the question of faculty morale. He noted that, in general, he feels that morale is improving, though he allows that there are some exceptions to this, such as the “limbo” some faculty find themselves in during the period between promotion to Associate Professor and the (potential) next step up into the rank of Full Professor. He also noted that the lowest morale is found amongst NTT and part-time faculty.

**2. A Discussion on the Dean’s Visit:** Immediately following the Dean’s exit, the Council spent a few minutes discussing what he said. In particular, members of the Council discussed the Dean’s remarks on faculty morale, and some time was spent thinking about ways to investigate

the matter (e.g., a potential survey of the faculty). The council also expressed a desire to inquire into Ph.D. program “best practices.”

**3. A Report on the 9/17 Meeting of the Academic Senate:** Dornsife Senate Representatives Ann Crigler and Jeff Chisum reported on the most recent meeting of the Academic Senate, noting that the Senate was treated to presentations on the Pacific Asia Museum, and on the Engemann Health Center. Also, a handout showing the Senate agenda voting results was circulated. Agenda items receiving the most votes included: Safety & Security; NTT & Part-Time Issues; Sustainability; Faculty Morale; Academic Integrity; and the Role of Academic Senate & Faculty Councils.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeff Chisum  
Secretary, Dornsife Faculty Council