

## **Minutes of the Dornsife College Faculty Council Meeting**

**November 4, 2015**

**3:00-5:00 pm**

**Present:** Darren Ruddell (President), Jeff Chisum (Vice President), Farida Habeeb (Secretary), Wiebke Ziebis, Ed McCann, Antoine Bechara, Bob Girandola, Sheila Briggs, David Tomkins, Gerald Davison, Lori Mesrobian, Nathalie Burle, Dana Johnson, Rod McKenzie, Alison Renteln

**1. Review of prior meeting minutes:** The council approved the minutes from the October meeting.

**2. Academic Senate 10/21 meeting summary:** Council members provided a summary of the October Academic Senate meeting. Highlights included:

- The sustainability, campus climate, and RTPC resolutions all passed.
- The Administration now needs to take action, especially on sustainability and transportation issues on campus. The Faculty Affairs Caucus plans to draft a resolution on decreasing transportation costs for faculty and staff.

**3. Announcements:** President Ruddell reminded Council members of important events related to DCFC in the coming months:

- The council's meeting with Dani Byrd will be rescheduled to 3/2 from 3:30-4:30pm. Faculty Affairs Caucus members aim to broach the issue of computer grants with Interim Dean Byrd immediately in order to account for its costs in the FY 2017 budget.
- The College-wide meeting with Provost Quick and Senate President Ginger Clark will take place on 2/3 from 4:15-4:45pm in the Tutor campus center.
- The distribution of the ballot to College faculty regarding DCFC's constitutional changes will occur soon. Changes will be adopted with at least two-thirds faculty approval.
- The council moved to adopt Resolutions for advancing DCFC items, as resolutions are formal, rhetorically forceful, and will be available on the website for public perusal.

**4. Meeting with Provost Quick:** The council was treated to a visit by Provost Quick, who requested input from council members not only on selection criteria for the new Dean but also on current challenges and problems within Dornsife. A healthy discussion ensued:

- Several council members identified their key selection criteria for the new Dornsife Dean, including: a Dean who will communicate effectively (engage, reach out, and listen) with the faculty, who will operate with transparency, and who will organize and manage an efficient Dean's office; a Dean who can articulate and deliver a broad vision for the College that includes scholarship with consequence, interdisciplinary education, faculty enrichment, global impact, and environmental consciousness; a Dean who will help the DCFC address current concerns such as: 1) low faculty and staff morale in the College, 2) difficulty navigating requests/communication in the Dean's office, 3) working conditions and infrastructure of Dornsife classrooms, 4) the use and validity of the new

online teaching evaluations, 5) faculty support for teaching resources such as a computer, and 6) faculty development grants; and a Dean who does not view the job primarily as a stepping-stone to a higher administrative position, but, rather, one who is invested in USC as a faculty member *and* an administrator.

--Concerns were raised by council members about the financial outlook of Dornsife and, consequently, its ability to sell its educational value to students. With the rise of "boutique degrees," the growing number of students enrolling in the professional schools, and the shift to a new GE model, Dornsife may be facing drastic revenue shortfalls.

--According to Provost Quick, there is no reason to panic about the state of Dornsife's budget or about student retention. USC has put most of its funding efforts toward Dornsife and the Medical school, and Dornsife is facing no immediate challenges to its budget. While some students do leave Dornsife in order to enroll in Annenberg or Marshall, the number is so small that it barely impacts the College. Moreover, while the new GE system has not been in place long enough to assess its overall impact on Dornsife, current revenue predictions remain healthy.

--The council thanked Provost Quick for his time and engagement with DCFC and reiterated its commitment to assist in the search for a new Dornsife Dean.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Farida Habeeb  
Secretary, Dornsife Faculty Council