




UNIVERSITY
OF SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA

MEMORANDUM

To: All Faculty

From: Elizabeth Garrett 
Vice President of Academic Planning and Budget

Date: August 14, 2007

Subject: Appointment of Professor J. Lawford Anderson as the
Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching

Office of the Provost

Elizabeth Garrett
Vice President for Academic
Planning and Budget

Sydney M. Irmas
Professor of
Public Interest
Law, Legal Ethics,
Political Science,
and Policy, Planning
and Development

On behalf of the Provost, I am pleased to announce that Professor J. Lawford Anderson has been appointed to serve as the Director of the Center for Excellence in Teaching (CET). As the leader of CET, Dr. Anderson will report to me, and he will work with others in the Office of the Provost on the many projects that the Center oversees in its work to foster and enhance lifelong learning. Plans are underway to move the CET office to GFS 211 soon, close to both the Office of Undergraduate Programs and the Graduate School, with whom Dr. Anderson, the faculty fellows, and the CET staff will work closely. In addition, CET will work with the Office of Faculty Affairs as both continue their outstanding work to improve the mentoring of faculty at the University. As you know, CET is responsible for programs relating to training of teaching assistants, mentoring of faculty and graduate students, promoting learning and teaching through workshops and seminars led by faculty fellows, and providing a collegial environment in which USC faculty can focus on new approaches to teaching and learning.

Professor Anderson is superbly qualified to lead the Center for Excellence in Teaching and to work alongside its dedicated faculty fellows. He has been a CET Faculty Fellow for the past four years, where he has led university-wide workshops on topics such as engaging students in the learning of science and learner-centered teaching across the disciplines. He has received over a dozen teaching awards, including the USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1989, the College's General Education Teaching Award in 1998, and the Professor of the Year Award from the Gamma Sigma Alpha National Honor Society in 1999, 2000, 2001, 2003, and 2006. These have been received largely in recognition of the talents he has displayed while teaching large general education classes, where he nurtures a strong sense of community and one-on-one interaction that is unusual for such courses. In 2007, Dr. Anderson and his colleague, Scott Paterson, received a Faculty Innovative Teaching Award for their involvement of undergraduate students in their new research in China, Mongolia, and Yosemite.

Dr. Anderson, a Professor of Earth Sciences, has been teaching and conducting research at USC for 32 years. He served three years as Director of Faculty Affairs for the College and the five previous years as Chair of the Department of Earth Sciences. Anderson has also served as the President of the Faculty of USC and the University's Academic Senate, the highest elected faculty position at USC, where he

University of
Southern California
Bovard Administration
Building, Room 103
Los Angeles,
California 90089-4019
Tel: 213 740 0064
Fax: 213 740 3873
e-mail: vpapb@usc.edu

helped sponsor resolutions committing the faculty to greater availability to students, guide the university to better utilization of five-day classes, and develop a new Faculty Handbook which, for the first time, also became available as an on-line document. During the mid 1990's, Anderson served as President of the Faculty Council of the College, where he had a significant role in revising the University's General Education curriculum. He recently chaired the University Committee on Academic Programs and Teaching, which produced an excellent report on and an inventory of learner-centered teaching and education at USC.

I want to take this opportunity to thank Dr. Danielle Mihram for her leadership of CET during the past ten years. Together with the faculty fellows, she has led CET to a position of national prominence in the higher education community. Dr. Mihram will remain engaged with the CET as a faculty fellow. I also have appreciated the leadership of Dean Karen Symms Gallagher and her colleagues who have worked with the CET over the past two years. I am confident that CET will continue to partner with scholars in the USC Rossier School of Education in various projects designed to better assess learning and to improve teaching methodologies.

CC: Steven B. Sample
C. L. Max Nikias
Karen Symms Gallagher
Michael Jackson
Barry Glassner
Randolph Hall
Martin Levine
Jerry Lucido
Michael Preston
Ilee Rhimes