



November 1, 2009

Steven B. Sample

President and
Robert C. Packard
Professor

Board of Trustees
University of Southern California

Dear Fellow Trustees:

After a great deal of thought and soul-searching, Kathryn and I have decided it is time for me to retire from the presidency of USC. For us to have played a part in leading this beautiful and noble institution for almost two decades has been a wonderful gift from you to us for which we shall always be grateful.

I have informed Chairman Roski, and he has concurred, that I will actually retire on August 2, 2010. In this way you, the Board of Trustees, will have nine full months from today in which to recruit my successor.

For Kathryn and me the presidency of USC has been far more than just a job – rather, it has been a calling, an all-consuming passion to move this university ahead farther and faster than any other university in the United States. With the strong support of all of you, and with the strong support of faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, neighbors, parents, and friends, we have done exactly that.

After taking a one-year sabbatical, I plan to return to full-time teaching and research as a professor of electrical engineering. Kathryn and I look forward to maintaining our friendship with each of you in the years ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steve", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Steven B. Sample
President