

MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff

From: C. L. Max Nikias *C.L. Nikias*

Date: April 30, 2009

Subject: Appointment of Dr. Robert A. Cooper as Vice Provost for Planning and Budget; and Jean Morrison as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Graduate Programs

Office of the Provost

C. L. Max Nikias  
Executive Vice President  
and Provost

Malcolm R. Currie Chair  
in Technology and  
the Humanities

On behalf of President Sample, I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. **Robert A. Cooper** as vice provost for planning and budget. As many of you know, Dr. Cooper has a long and distinguished history at USC, having most recently served as university budget director and associate senior vice president. His appointment is effective May 1, and we warmly welcome his return to the university.

I am also delighted to announce the expansion of Vice Provost **Jean Morrison's** portfolio of responsibilities and her new title as Vice Provost for Academic Affairs and Graduate Programs, effective May 1. She will report directly to the provost.

Vice Provosts Cooper and Morrison will assume many of the responsibilities currently handled by Vice President **Elizabeth Garrett**, whom President Obama has announced he intends to nominate as assistant secretary for tax policy at the United States Treasury Department. She will be on leave from USC during her tenure in the Obama administration.

In his new role, Dr. Cooper will report directly to the provost. He will oversee academic budgeting and ensure that the priorities of USC's strategic plan direct the university's budgetary planning. He will work closely with the provost regarding budget issues for USC's various schools, as well as allocations for the central administration budget. He will also manage the budget activities associated with the integration of the new hospitals within the university. In addition, Dr. Cooper will work closely with **Robert Abeles**, USC's chief financial officer, in managing budgets, practice plans, and the hospitals, and he will hold a seat on the USC Hospital Governing Boards and USC Care Board.

As mentioned above, Dr. Cooper served as USC's university budget director and associate senior vice president from 2000 to 2006, having previously served as executive director of the Office of Budget and Planning from 1995 to 2000. In these capacities, he provided conceptual leadership in resource planning and formulated USC's annual operating budget. Among other responsibilities, he also reported on the university's budget process to the Finance Committee of the USC Board of Trustees and managed health plans administration and institutional research analysis.

Before assuming those positions, Dr. Cooper served as chief financial officer and treasurer of the Doheny Eye Institute, and as USC's associate comptroller and assistant comptroller. Dr. Cooper earned a bachelor's degree and an M.B.A. from the USC Marshall School of Business, and holds a Doctor of Education from the University of Pennsylvania.

Meanwhile, with the expansion of her responsibilities, Professor Jean Morrison will oversee a number of important university committees, including the University Curriculum Committee, the Committee on Academic Policies and Procedures (CAPP), and the Provost's Oversight Committee for Athletic Academic Affairs (OCAAA). She will also serve on the Strategic Plan Annual Report Committee and co-chair the Interdisciplinary Faculty Hiring Committee. Vice Provost for Undergraduate Programs, **Eugene Bickers**, and Vice Provost and Executive Director of the Office of Continuing Education and Summer Programs, **Suh-Pyng Ku**, will report to Vice Provost Morrison. Among her other responsibilities, she will continue to direct USC's Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) program, and will work closely with Dr. Cooper on budget issues that affect schools.

Executive Vice Provost **Barry Glassner** will assume other responsibilities currently handled by Vice President Garrett, including oversight of the Academic Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and the Honorary Degrees Committee. He will continue to co-chair the Interdisciplinary Faculty Hiring Committee.

Before closing, I want to reiterate the pride we all feel in Elizabeth Garrett's much-deserved designation as a nominee in the Obama administration. She will remain a member of USC's faculty, but we will certainly miss her exceptional intelligence and energy as a university administrator. She has been an invaluable member of my senior leadership team, and a tremendous advisor and friend to me as provost. We wish her every success in her new role in Washington, D.C.

Please join President Sample and me in congratulating Dr. Robert Cooper on his appointment as vice provost for planning and budget, and Professor Jean Morrison on her new responsibilities.

cc: Steven B. Sample  
Robert Abeles  
Todd R. Dickey  
Martha Harris  
Elizabeth Garrett  
Michael Jackson  
Margo Steurbaut  
Courtney Surls  
Barry Glassner  
Rob Cooper  
Randolph Hall  
Krisztina Holly  
Marty Levine  
Jerome Lucido  
Jean Morrison  
Michael Preston  
Ilee Rhimes