



MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Department Chairs, Faculty and Staff
From: C. L. Max Nikias *C. C. Nikias*
Date: March 28, 2007
Subject: New Dean of the USC Libraries

Office of the Provost

C. L. Max Nikias
Provost and
Senior Vice
President for
Academic Affairs

On behalf of President Sample, I am pleased to announce the appointment of **Catherine Quinlan** as Dean of the USC Libraries, effective August 1, 2007.

USC's academic goals and ambitions required that our academic community recruit boldly and wisely for this position. I believe that this has been the case.

Our scholarly era requires new approaches in how libraries organize the vast spectrum of human knowledge—through enduring paradigms as well as through propitious developments, through traditional visual, aural and written archives as well as through digital advances that now connect an entire planet. As we noted last year while launching an international search for our next university library dean, USC is committed to leading rather than imitating efforts to establish the model for the 21st century library. Accordingly, we have sought the highest level of excellence in the art and science of library administration.

Catherine Quinlan has established a track record as one of the world's top leaders in the development and evolution of university libraries. She has spent the past decade guiding the state-of-the-art library system at one of the world's elite research universities, the University of British Columbia (UBC). Since 2004, she has also directed UBC's Irving K. Barber Learning Center, a \$74 million facility that is a prototype for academic information management.

She was selected from a pool of 190 individuals who were identified and contacted by a search firm retained by our search advisory committee. The committee carefully and exhaustively reviewed 55 candidates, nominees and prospects. Four finalists were identified, from which President Sample selected Ms. Quinlan.

At USC, Ms. Quinlan will lead USC's library staff as they play a pivotal role in our intellectual community, guiding young students and seasoned scholars alike on new intellectual and creative frontiers. She will work in close collaboration with other USC deans, faculty, and friends of the USC libraries. Additionally, she will build major new partnerships with art, museum and library institutions throughout the Los Angeles basin.

University of
Southern California
3551 Trousdale Parkway
Suite 102
Los Angeles,
California 90089-4019
Tel: 213 740 2101
Fax: 213 740 7606
e-mail:
provost@usc.edu
web page:
[http://www.usc.edu/
admin/provost](http://www.usc.edu/admin/provost)

New Dean of USC Libraries
March 28, 2007
Page Two

The leadership skills she has demonstrated at UBC are formidable. She has administered an annual budget of \$35 million and a fulltime staff of 300 employees over 21 sites. She overhauled processes and operations there, and has been remarkably successful at raising financial and in-kind donations.

She raised much of the funding for the Irving K. Barber Learning Center, including a \$30 million gift from I.K. Barber (the largest capital gift ever to the university). She coordinated the Center's design and construction phases, built corporate and academic alliances, developed a \$2 million annual budget for the Center, hired staff, installed the first automated storage and retrieval system at any Canadian library, and established a \$250,000 matching program to support the digitization of historical materials. She also worked with I.K. Barber and UBC President Piper to establish and fund the I.K. Barber School of Arts and Science at UBC Okanagan, through a gift of \$15 million from I.K. Barber. She also has been a guest lecturer at UBC and a frequent speaker at international conferences.

Ms. Quinlan has been published frequently; quoted widely by local, national and international publications; participated in panel presentations for news conferences (e.g. "Censorship and AIDS"); and served on a variety of review panels for national and international organizations.

Prior to her arrival at UBC, she served for seven years as director of libraries at the University of Western Ontario, where she administered an \$18 million annual budget and a fulltime staff of 240. She dramatically improved the library's processes and identified and funded the replacement of the library's 20-year-old integrated automation system. She also served as an adjunct professor at the university's Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

Previously, she led the health sciences library at Memorial University of Newfoundland and also served on that university's business administration adjunct faculty.

She earned an MBA from Memorial University of Newfoundland, a Master of Library Studies degree from Dalhousie University, and a Bachelor of Music from Queen's University.

When we announced this search a year ago, I noted the inextricable relationship between a great library and higher learning. Indeed, the Library of Alexandria served as not merely one of the world's first great collections of books; through its lecture halls and meeting areas, it became the world's first research university. Ms. Quinlan will lead us in redefining the great library's role in our own day, creating a dynamic social, creative and technological environment in which scholars can easily cross disciplines and boundaries in order to exchange and spark ideas. It is this manner of intellectual environment that will maximize the USC community's ability to carry out our strategic plan priorities in the areas of academic globalization, research that addresses societal needs, and lifelong, learner-centered education.

New Dean of USC Libraries
March 28, 2007
Page Three

We are grateful to Marje Schuetze-Coburn for her service of the past year as dean of our libraries. She played an invaluable role in preparing USC's libraries and library staff for a new and expanded role in the life of our university. We thank Executive Vice Provost Barry Glassner for his role in overseeing the USC libraries and for guiding a highly successful search process. And we also thank the entire search advisory committee, which was co-chaired by USC University Professor and California State Librarian Emeritus Kevin Starr and by USC Annenberg School Dean Geoff Cowan.

Again, we are delighted that Ms. Quinlan has accepted the challenge of working with us to further USC's leadership role in a crucial scholarly arena. Please join us in welcoming Ms. Quinlan to the Trojan Family.

cc: Steven B. Sample
Todd R. Dickey
Dennis F. Dougherty
Martha Harris
Alan Kreditor
Elizabeth Garrett
Michael Jackson
Barry Glassner
Randolph Hall
Marty Levine
Jerry Lucido
Ilee Rhimes
Mike Preston
Marje Schuetze-Coburn
Library Search Advisory Committee