




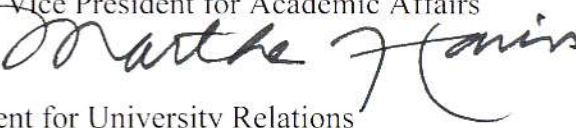
MEMORANDUM

Office of the Provost

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

To: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff

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

Martha Harris 
Senior Vice President for University Relations

Date: December 1, 2006

Subject: USC Office of Research Advancement in Washington, D.C.

On behalf of President Sample, we are delighted to announce the establishment of the Office of Research Advancement in Washington, D.C. This office fills a pressing and specific need at USC, and will boost the profile of our research in federal agencies and foundations.

Research universities such as USC play a vital role in American society. The top 62 members of the Association of American Universities (AAU) produce some 70% of our Ph.Ds. These individuals form the core of our research universities: in addition to educating students, they advance scholarly and critical thinking, create revolutionary innovations that improve the quality of human life, and produce the innovative research that drives our global economy. In short, they better our lives.

USC, along with the AAU, has been a passionate advocate for sufficient federal funding for basic research in all disciplines. But all major research universities—including USC—can do more. We must be extremely aggressive in competing with our peer institutions to secure support for our faculty from federal funding agencies and foundations.

To do this, the university has created the Office of **Research Advancement** in Washington, D.C. This office will benefit faculty from all disciplines at USC, including the social sciences and the humanities. Its well-trained staff will strategically and proactively pursue funding opportunities, while helping our faculty understand the requirements for successful proposals, especially ones that are large and multidisciplinary. The staff will also assist the various schools at USC to work collaboratively—not only with each other, but with other universities that have complementary strengths.

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The Office of Research Advancement reports to **Randolph Hall**, vice provost for research advancement, and **Steven Moldin** serves as its executive director. Dr. Moldin was a senior NIH program official who created numerous initiatives to support multidisciplinary genetics and neuroscience research. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Yeshiva University. **James Murday** recently joined the office as director of research advancement in the natural sciences after a long career at the Department of Defense's Naval Research Laboratory and Office of Naval Research. He was also an architect of the U.S. National Nanotechnology Initiative, serving as the initial director of the National Nanotechnology Coordination Office. He received his Ph.D. in solid state physics from Cornell University.

The creation of the Office of Research Advancement addresses a number of priorities in USC's new strategic plan. Not only will it advance the university's interdisciplinary research agenda, but it will help us build networks and partnerships, both nationally and internationally.

Specifically, the office will:

- maintain and strengthen ties between the university's investigators and federal and philanthropic research sponsors;
- track current and emerging funding priorities among federal agencies;
- help faculty initiate and expand sponsored research programs;
- promote USC research breakthroughs and findings to grant-making institutions and policymakers;
- host research events, maintain membership on strategic planning committees, and meet with program officers of research funding agencies and foundations.

USC has long provided a home for our nation's brightest scholars. We bring together great thinkers from an array of disciplines—from the basic sciences to the social sciences, from biotechnology and medicine to the humanities and professions. Our faculty—working collaboratively across disciplines—can make discoveries that lead to marketplace innovations, creating vast new economic sectors, businesses, jobs, and products. This office will support them in their efforts to become very competitive when they prepare proposals for various funding agencies and foundations.

Dr. Moldin, along with other staff members, will be frequent visitors to the USC campuses in Los Angeles. They will support the university's faculty through training sessions, advice on research initiatives and centers, and identification of new research opportunities.

The Office of Research Advancement can be contacted by telephone at **(202) 289-3740** or by emailing rlmay@usc.edu. Additional information about the office can be found at www.usc.edu/research.

The Office of Research Advancement is co-located with the **Office of Federal Relations**, which is under the direction of **Jennifer Grodsky**, our executive director of federal relations. She reports directly to **Martha Harris**. The Office of Federal Relations is the liaison between USC and the federal government. It works to communicate the breadth and depth of USC's research activities to the federal government and others in Washington, D.C., and to advance the university's academic and public affairs agenda with Congress and the federal agencies.

Guided by the university's commitment to public service and the promotion of academic excellence, the **Office of Federal Relations** works with the higher education and scientific communities to promote the advancement of education and research at the national level. USC now has a seat at the table when national policymakers are determining the funding levels for basic research, student aid programs, and Congressionally-directed projects that can benefit the university. Further, the Office of Federal Relations assists policymakers by providing access to topical research and expert faculty for testimony and briefings.

In its first year, the Office of Federal Relations launched three major initiatives: an online survey for alumni and friends of USC in Washington D.C.; a prototype guide for policymakers that offers a snapshot of USC faculty expertise and programs of interest to lawmakers and lobbyists; and a major media campaign targeted at Capitol Hill. By expanding Congress's appreciation for USC's contributions to society and improving our relationships on Capitol Hill, the office ensures that USC's voice is heard in the nation's capital.

The Office of Research Advancement and the Office of Federal Relations will be located on the *fifth floor* of **701 Pennsylvania Avenue** in the prestigious Market Square Buildings, midway between the White House and the Capitol Building. Occupying approximately 5500 sq. ft. of space, the suite will also include "hoteling" offices available for use by USC faculty and staff when traveling to the Washington, D.C. area. These offices will contain telephones, computers, and wireless Internet connectivity, as well as copiers, a fax machine, and some staff support.

A large, 600 sq. ft. conference room with video conferencing capability will be available for university-related events. A 240-seat theater and 2600 sq. ft. of meeting space are also located in the building and will be available by reservation. This new space will be ideal for a range of USC events, including lectures by faculty and gatherings for enrollment services.

We are confident this space will enhance the university's presence outside Southern California—not only in the Washington, D.C. area, but throughout the east coast. The creation of the Office of Research Advancement is a significant step forward for the university and its research efforts. It is a strategic and smart move for USC and, in this way, reflects President Sample's bold vision for our future.

cc: Steven B. Sample
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