



MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff
From: C. L. Max Nikias *C. L. Nikias*
Date: December 19, 2006
Subject: Appointment of Ilee Rhimes as Chief Information Officer and Vice Provost for Information Technology Services

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 **Ilee Rhimes** as chief information officer and vice provost for information technology services, effective February 1, 2007. His appointment follows an exhaustive national search that drew approximately 25 top-level candidates. He stands among the finest academic CIOs in the country, and I am confident his dynamic leadership and creative vision will accelerate the university's growth—and ensure its prominence—in information technology services.

Rhimes comes to USC from The Ohio State University, where he has served as the chief information officer since November 2000. In this capacity, he has been responsible for the enterprise-wide deployment of information technologies in support of teaching, learning, research, and administration. He has overseen the offices of information technology; technology enhanced learning and research; project management services; emerging technologies; and cybersecurity.

Rhimes has over 35 years of information technology and finance experience in the public and private sectors. More than 25 of those years have been in higher education, including over 11 years in technology leadership roles at Miami University and Kent State University in Ohio. In addition to his appointment as CIO at Kent State University, Rhimes served for two years as interim vice president for business and finance.

In the private sector, Rhimes served as assistant vice president for methods and operations for a financial services firm and as director of consulting services for a technology consulting firm, both in the Chicago area. He is active in Higher Education IT professional organizations, serves on several IT advisory committees and boards, and has presented at many conferences on a variety of IT strategic planning and leadership topics. He is widely-regarded as a leader in his field, and his talks draw on his vast experience in information technology services.

Rhimes earned his B.A. from Governors State University and his M.B.A. from Miami University. He also has earned certificates from numerous professional development

programs, including the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) executive leadership program.

In his new role at USC, Rhimes will advance the federated model recommended by the Provost-Senate Faculty Committee for Information Services and endorsed by deans and university administration. Following this model, the central IT organization provides essential university-wide services, such as the core network, telephone service, and e-mail, and the units are empowered to acquire and develop the IT services necessary to meet their unique needs.

Rhimes will oversee the continued implementation of key infrastructure initiatives, including wired and wireless networking, videoconferencing, and multimedia classrooms on both the University Park and Health Sciences campuses. He will also complete the move into new facilities for USC's world-class Center for High-Performance Computing and Communications.

These projects are already well underway, thanks to the guidance of **Professor Thomas Katsouleas**, who has served as vice provost for information services on an interim basis. I would like to thank Katsouleas for his outstanding leadership during this transitional period. We are all grateful for his tremendous dedication and accomplishments.

I would also like to acknowledge the superb work of the search committee. **Michael Preston** and **Herbert Schorr** co-chaired the committee, and its members included faculty and staff from throughout the university: **Albert Brecht, Thomas A. Buchanan, Ann Crigler, Sarah Hamm-Alvarez, Robert Johnson, and Douglas Shook.**

Please join President Sample and me in welcoming Ilee Rhimes to USC. We all very much look forward to his arrival and to the contributions he will make to the life of this university. His experience is exceptional, and I am certain he will help USC solidify its position as a recognized international leader in information technology services.

cc: Steven B. Sample
Todd R. Dickey
Dennis F. Dougherty
Martha Harris
Alan Kreditor
Elizabeth Garrett
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