

New Faculty Orientation 2006

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Academic Senate President 2006-2007

Welcome!

Thank you for this opportunity!



First USC Faculty -- Picnic at Santa Monica Beach, 1888

A bit about me

Because I'm like you

- Joined USC in 1997 as an assistant professor
- From Brandeis University
- Assistant (1st kid) → associate (2nd kid) → full
- Center director, WiSE chair in Engineering, academic senate president, senior associate dean for research

- Academia is a great place to continually invent yourself!

A bit about the Senate

The main means of faculty governance

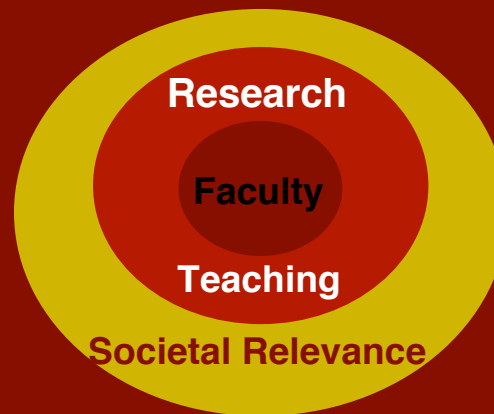
- Each school (academic unit) has an elected faculty council
- Council president represents the school in the Senate as a voting member
- An 8-person cross-campus Executive Board sets the Senate Agenda
- A new president from and of the faculty is elected each year

What is the Senate good for?

- The primary purpose of the the Academic Senate is to contribute to the intellectual vitality of the University.
- It is a forum for faculty decision-making, and the voice of the faculty in the making of university policy and in the consideration of academic issues.
- It strives to safeguard academic freedom, full academic due process, and the tenure system.
- It determines positions on faculty status, responsibilities and welfare, and any and all issues pertaining to the well being of the faculty and the University.

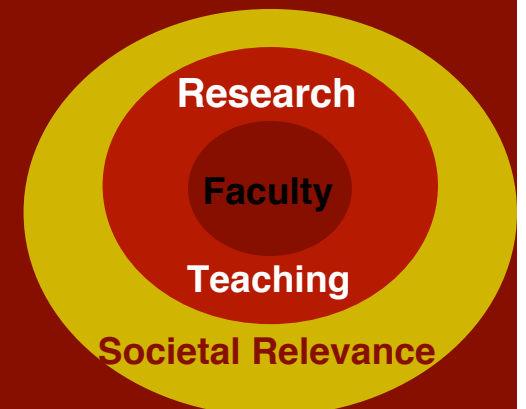
Theme for the year

Enhancing Research Excellence
by
Empowering Faculty



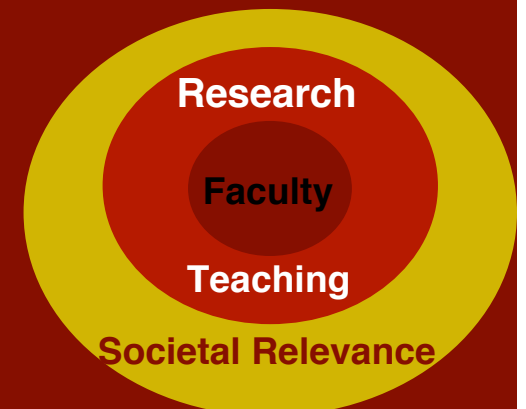
Major Foci

- Faculty Development
 - Research, Teaching & Training
 - Communication Pathways
 - Societal Relevance Issues & Pathways



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Research

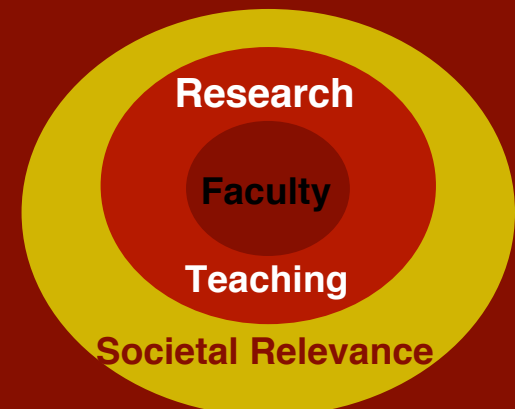
- University Research Committee
- Research Administration Task Force (RATF) - Senate resolution Dec 2005
- Center for Excellence in Research
- Operationalizing & Facilitating Interdisciplinarity

Teaching

- Ongoing collaboration with CET
- Learner-Centered Education \Rightarrow Evaluation & Assessment
- New program: 50 clickers provided by the Provost's Technology Enhanced Learning & DEN Initiative, distributed by the Senate

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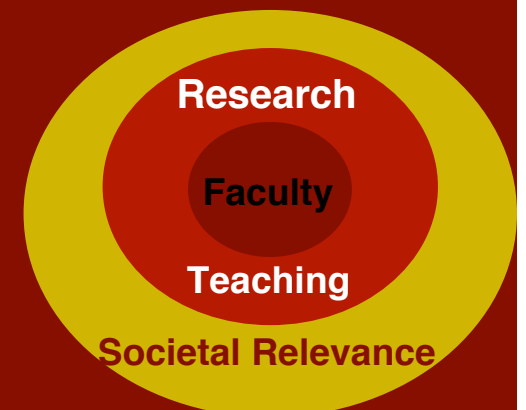


Communication Pathways

- Goal: Improving all levels of communication
 - Faculty ⇔ Faculty Councils ⇔ Deans
 - Faculty ⇔ Academic Senate
- Pathways
 - Town halls
 - University Club lunch salons
 - Chronicle updates
 - Web portals (Senate, USC, school-level...)
 - Podcasting
 - <your ideas go here>

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Societal Relevance

- A very broad charge, encompassing outreach, service learning, translational research and much more
- Maintaining and enhancing the academic value
- Facilitating connections to the University Neighborhood Outreach (UNO), Community Based Learning Collaborative (CBLC), Joint Educational Program (JEP), and many others

Committees

- A most effective means of making progress
- Joint Senate-Provost:
 - University Research Committee (Shri Narayanan)
 - Committee on Information Services (Maryalice Jordan-Marsh & Doug Shook)
 - Library Committee (Kevin Starr)
 - Committee on Academic Programs & Teaching
- Senate:
 - Handbook Committee (Mike Nichol)
 - Environment Committee (Greg Thalmann)
 - Faculty Rights & Responsibilities Committee (Lawford Anderson)
 - NTT Faculty Policy Committee (Julie Nyquist)
 - Events Committee (Najwa Hanel)
 - IP Committee (Bart Kosko)
- Task Forces:
 - Research Administration Task Force (Mike Quick & Mal Snead)

What should you do?

- Take ownership of USC
 - Academic integrity
 - Respectful, collaborative and interdisciplinary environment
 - Governance (when you can)

Advice

- Talk to lots of people! Take the time to network and don't just spend your time in the office/classroom/lab!
- Get at least one mentor, possibly two, and meet the person/people at least once per semester with an agenda of questions
- Know your rights & responsibilities, also benefits (from the Faculty Handbook, SCampus, Office of Equity and Diversity)
- Use the resources provided by CET, CER, Center for Work & Family Life, faculty & Senate web portals...
- Read the USC Strategic Plan
- Take the time to do/say things right (I'll get back to you)
- Prioritize but don't compromise on your principles!
- Be a good role model for students and colleagues
- Don't take no for an answer (Fight on!)

Kickoff

Keep inventing yourself,
have a superb
academic career at USC
and
welcome to the Trojan family!