

August 18, 2009

Faculty  
USC Rossier School of Education

Dear Colleagues,

**Office of the Provost**

**C. L. Max Nikias**  
Executive Vice President  
and Provost

Malcolm R. Currie Chair  
in Technology and  
the Humanities

I am delighted to inform you that President Sample has offered **Karen Gallagher** another five-year term as dean of the USC Rossier School of Education, and that she has accepted the reappointment. As you know, this decision followed a fourth-year review of Dean Gallagher's deanship that included surveys sent to faculty, staff, and students. The feedback from these surveys expressed strong appreciation for Dean Gallagher's successes.

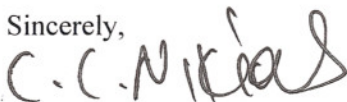
Many of you praised Dean Gallagher's excellent management of the school, while observing that it is well-positioned to pursue the next stage in the development of its mission statement and implementation of that plan. Dean Gallagher has developed an effective infrastructure for the school, ensured a culture of fiscal responsibility that supports innovative teaching and cutting-edge research, and obtained funding for an endowed chair. Under her leadership, the school has redesigned its Ph.D. and Ed.D. programs. The innovative MAT@USC program is well on its way to greatly expanding the school's training of teachers, to serving as a model for technology-enhanced learning, and to providing additional resources to enhance the research program of the school.

Many of you specifically commented on Dean Gallagher's energy, her enthusiasm for the school and its mission, and her willingness to make difficult decisions in ways that respected the views of others. You acknowledged her attention to urban education and globalization, as well as to the school's reputation in the broader community. Others singled out her willingness to listen and her ability to develop creative solutions to challenges.

I want to thank you for your carefully-considered comments regarding Dean Gallagher's performance as dean. I summarized your feedback for her, and she and I have discussed it in her annual performance review. Our discussion included the areas in which some of you believe she should focus more attention, as well as the leadership she can provide on new directions for the school. I am certain she will move forward with your input firmly in mind, and that she will speak with you directly regarding her plans to address the issues you raised.

Please join me in extending warm congratulations to Dean Gallagher. We all look forward to her continued contributions as dean of the USC Rossier School of Education, and we wish her every success.

Sincerely,



C. L. Max Nikias  
Provost

cc: Steven B. Sample  
Robert Abeles  
Todd R. Dickey  
Martha Harris