

August 18, 2009

Faculty
USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development

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 pleased to inform you that President Sample has offered **Jack Knott** another five-year term as dean of the USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and that he has accepted this offer. As you know, this decision was made following a fourth-year review of Dean Knott's leadership of the school. This review included a survey sent to both full and part time faculty, staff, and students. The feedback from these surveys expressed enthusiastic support for Dean Knott and his accomplishments.

In your responses, many of you praised Dean Knott's clarity and transparency. You described him as open and direct regarding his decisions, adding that he is comfortable acknowledging all aspects of the decision-making process. Many of you mentioned his passion for excellence, as well as his dedication to creating the top school in the policy/public management/planning and real estate arena. Some of you specifically described his tireless commitment to excellence in all of the school's endeavors. Most of you believe that he actively engages the faculty through the faculty council and in faculty meetings, and that he does not hesitate to assert his own views concerning the school's future. Others wrote that he represents the school well to internal and external constituents, while most of you believe he is clear about rewarding faculty who publish regularly in the best journals and are actively pursuing grant funding. Many of you praised his active involvement in faculty search and recruitment processes, which have attracted a number of excellent new faculty.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your feedback regarding Dean Knott's performance. Some of you described areas in which he can pay additional attention, and I have communicated your comments to the dean during his annual performance review. I am confident he will move forward with the best interests of the school in mind, and that he will speak with you directly regarding his plans to address the issues you raised.

Please join me in congratulating Dean Knott on his reappointment as dean of the USC School of Policy, Planning, and Development. His leadership has been inspiring, and we all look forward to his continued contributions to USC.

Sincerely,



C. L. Max Nikias
Provost

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