



April 30, 2019

Dear USC Community,

As we work toward a smooth transition in the university's leadership, we have been identifying key areas of focus, including the appointment of USC's new provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, who will succeed Provost Michael Quick. We write today to share the next steps and a timeline for this critically important search. Moving forward, we are committed to building on the excellent foundation established by many in our community during the search for the president, as it will allow us to fill this position in a timely fashion and with broad community input.

To begin, we are pleased to announce that Elizabeth Graddy has generously agreed to serve as the university's interim provost, effective July 1, 2019. Dr. Graddy, who is USC's current executive vice provost, brings tremendous experience to this role, having previously served as vice provost of academic and faculty affairs. In her current capacity, she oversees the offices of faculty affairs, academic affairs, undergraduate programs, and the Graduate School. Dr. Graddy cares deeply about the university's mission and core values, and brings a well-considered and aspirational perspective to every discussion. She is also passionate about diversity and inclusion, and understands their importance in building trust among our community and in achieving our goals for academic excellence.

During the presidential search process, we saw a groundswell in community involvement, as faculty, staff, students, alumni, and local community members participated in listening sessions, wrote impassioned letters, and shared their views with colleagues, peers, and friends. The goals articulated by these diverse voices guide our work today, and we will select a provost whose values and vision align closely with the broader ambitions of our community.

To guide this process, we have formed a search committee that consists of a wide range of leaders from across the university. The committee will be chaired by University Professor Mark Humayun, and will report directly to the president-elect. The full roster accompanies this letter.

In selecting the members, we worked closely with the Academic Senate. Dr. Yaniv Bar-Cohen and Professor Rebecca Lonergan, the president and the president-elect of the Academic Senate, respectively, will serve on the search committee, and we will continue to listen carefully to the input and guidance we receive from that important group.

For experience and continuity, we also included several individuals who were on the presidential search committee. We added students and staff to the committee. Taken together, this group represents a breadth of backgrounds, views, and experience at the university, and the chair will work closely with each member of the search committee throughout the process.

Beyond the committee, we will actively consult the executive board of the Academic Senate, University and Distinguished Professors, student government (both undergraduate and graduate), the deans, and the academic department chairs of the Keck School of Medicine. We hope to identify the candidate by the end of the summer.

Isaacson, Miller, a highly regarded search firm, will assist the university in its search. We and the members of the search committee welcome your input, as well as your nominations and applications, for this position. You may direct these materials to pvsearch@usc.edu. Throughout the process, we are committed to maintaining absolute confidentiality.

The central role of the provost at USC cannot be overstated, and this appointment tops our list of priorities in the coming weeks. The provost is the second-ranking officer under the president, the chief academic officer, and plays a critical role in all of the university's operations. To realize the dreams we all share for USC, we will need to get this appointment absolutely right. We ask for your help and we are eager to partner with you.

Sincerely,



Wanda M. Austin
Interim President



Carol L. Folt
President-elect

Enclosure

USC Provost Search Committee

Mark S. Humayun, M.D., Ph.D.—Chair, Provost Search Committee

University Professor

Professor of Ophthalmology, Biomedical Engineering, and Cell and Neurobiology

Cornelius J. Pings Chair in Biomedical Sciences

Keck School of Medicine of USC

USC Viterbi School of Engineering

Yaniv Bar-Cohen, M.D.

Professor of Clinical Pediatrics and Medicine

President of the Academic Senate

Keck School of Medicine of USC

David C. Bohnett

University Trustee

Chair, Academic Affairs Committee

Chair, David Bohnett Foundation

Hanna Damasio, M.D.

University Professor

Dana Dornsife Chair in Neuroscience

Professor of Psychology and Neurology

USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

Jeffrey de Caen

Staff Assembly President

Associate Dean of Operations at the Thornton School of Music

USC Thornton School of Music

Joanna Demers, Ph.D.

Professor of Musicology

USC Thornton School of Music

Shaun Harper, Ph.D.

Provost Professor of Education and Business

Clifford H. and Betty C. Allen Professor in Urban Leadership

USC Rossier School of Education

USC Marshall School of Business

Sharoni Little, Ph.D, Ed.D.

Professor of Clinical Business Communications

USC Marshall School of Business

Rebecca S. Lonergan, J.D.

Professor of Lawyering Skills

Incoming President of the Academic Senate

USC Gould School of Law

Peter Mancall, Ph.D.

*Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities
Linda and Harlan Martens Director of the Early Modern Studies Institute
Professor of History and Anthropology
USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*

Oliver Mayer

*Associate Professor of Dramatic Writing
USC School of Dramatic Arts*

Andrew P. McMahon, Ph.D.

*University Professor
W.M. Keck Provost Professor of Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine and
Biological Sciences
Keck School of Medicine of USC*

Ellis Meng, Ph.D.

*Gabilan Distinguished Professorship in Science and Engineering
Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Electrical and Computer Engineering-Electrophysics
USC Viterbi School of Engineering*

Viet Thanh Nguyen, Ph.D.

*University Professor
Aerol Arnold Chair of English
Professor of English, American Studies and Ethnicity, and Comparative Literature
USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*

James M. Staten

*Senior Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer
University of Southern California*

Trenton Stone

*President, Undergraduate Student Government
B.A. Programs in Philosophy, Cognitive Science
USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences*

Joycelyn Yip

*President, Graduate Student Government
Doctoral Candidate, Biomedical Engineering
USC Viterbi School of Engineering*