

May 8, 2014

Dear Faculty of the Viterbi School of Engineering:

The work of the 2013-14 Engineering Faculty Council has been completed. It started with a serious crisis caused by the dissolution of previous (2012-13) and upcoming (2013-14) EFCs by the Academic Senate in August 2013. The Senate decision was ignored and the current EFC was elected, in accordance to the EFC Bylaws, in September 2013. Most of you had grasped the scope and complexity of the issues caused by the decision, and provided strong support for the EFC. As a result, you have accomplished a lot in the last 8 months: you created a fully operational EFC that is entirely controlled by the engineering faculty and is now recognized by the Academic Senate and University Administration, wrote and adopted the Council's new Bylaws that included our non-tenure-track colleagues in the school governance while securing the importance of the concept of tenure, introduced the formal process of performance assessment of the school's associate deans, organized the process of nomination and election of representatives to the next (2014-2015) EFC, prepared the EFC/APT review of the faculty merit evaluation, introduced the idea of an electronic EFC Clearinghouse designed to improve university services, organized a committee to review faculty licensing and start-up activities, became directly involved in debates on the student electronic evaluation of faculty teaching, academic integrity, the Academic Senate proposed changes of the Faculty Handbook, and the goals and role of the Academic Senate relationships with USC Faculty Councils.

None of the above could have happened without your strong support of the Council, without Council's unity, and without many of you across the School investing large amounts of time, energy and courage into the Council's works. For that, I thank all of you very much.

I also thank John Silvester (the chair of the suspended (2012-13) EFC) and dean Yannis Yortsos for courage and loyalty to our faculty expressed by their firm, clear, and public recognition and support of the present Council immediately after its formation and until now. Thanks again to the dean for his support in organizing the assessment of the Viterbi School's associate deans and for providing the Council with a large volume of detailed information about the structure and operations of the School Administration.

You, the engineering faculty, have done a lot of useful work this year. So, one more time, thank you.

Best Regards,

Joe Kunc
Chair of the 2013-14 Engineering Faculty Council
Professor of Astronautics, Aerospace Engineering, Physics and Astronomy