

# USC Staff Assembly

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
General Assembly Meeting – June 25, 2021  
9:00 AM – 10:00 AM / 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Culture Value Spotlight:

## OPEN COMMUNICATION | WE SHARE OPENLY AND HONESTLY

### Present 2020-2021 Body (42):

Acevedo-Lam, Tanya	Jones, Michelle
Alarcon, Patricia	Kirchner, Jake
Almassizadeh, Renee	Lewis, Kierra
Amescua, Josie	Mardirossian, Jackie
Andalon, Tiffany	Mitchell-Huizar, Nichelle
Azarraga, Arlene	Mizushima, Linda
Bodiwala, Sonali	Morataya, Claudia
Brown, Amber	Nieto, Lou
Caballero, Marc	Ochoa-Springer, Liliana
Chesley, Erika	Padilla-Casillas, Sara
Coles, Richard	Preciado, Aida
Culpepper, Kristi	Rivera, Lillian
De la Rosa, April	Sandhu, Juggy
DeFrank, Ginny	Schroth, Richard
De Vera Mata, Nicole	Taylor, Bernice
Estrada, Laura	Turner, Philip
Gallegos, Robert	Vazquez, Lydia
Halfacre, Gloria	Welch, Zelinda
Hansen, Jenny	Wills, Olivia
Hernandez, Irma	Yu, Jenny
Jester, Tonisha	Zuniga, Randolph

### Absent 2020-2021 Body (16):

Abrahamyan, Ann	Hinojosa, Shannon
Acosta, Dulce	Luna, Sarah
Adams, Teri	Lynn, Crystal
Bartlett, Amber	Mico, Brian
Boeck, Kathleen	Ortiz, Bryan
Bonagofsky, Kathleen	Reyes, Natasha
Gorse, Michael	Thompson-Harper, Wade
Gratz, Thomas	Welch, Ryan

### Guest (38)

**Present 2021-2022 Body (54):**

Acuna, Lali	Mardirossian, Jackie
Alarcon, Patricia	Martinez, George
Alexander, Sarah	Martinez, Naomi
Amescua, Josie	Mitchell-Huizar, Nichelle
Azarraga, Arlene	Mizushima, Linda
Black, Jennifer	Moe, Kristine
Bodiwala, Sonali	Nieto, Lou
Brown, Amber	Ochoa-Springer, Liliana
Brown, JaBari	Padilla-Casillas, Sara
Caballero, Marc	Patterson, Stacey
Chesley, Erika	Portero, Yanara
Coles, Richard	Preciado, Aida
Culpepper, Kristi	Rivera, Lillian
De la Rosa, April	Salazar, Nelida
DeFrank, Ginny	Sanabria, Pilar
DeMartini, John	Sandhu, Juggy
Estrada, Laura	Schroth, Richard
Ferrer, Brian	Smith, Corinne
Fried-Gintis, Sarah	Smith, Shamae
Gallegos, Robert	Sommer, Russ
Halfacre, Gloria	Stender, Cynthia
Hansen, Jenny	Taylor, Bernice
Hernandez, Irma	Turner, Philip
Huerta, Veronica	Vazquez, Lydia
Jebavy, Erin	Wills, Olivia
Jester, Tonisha	Zamora, Grace
Jones, Michelle	Zuniga, Randolph

**Absent 2021-2022 Body (8):**

Adams, Teri	Gratz, Thomas
Bartlett, Amber	Hinojosa, Shannon
Black, Rachel	Ortiz, Bryan
Gallegos, Lisa	Thompson-Harper, Wade

**Guest (0)**

1 Erika Chesley, Staff Assembly President, called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

2  
3 President Chesley extended words of welcome, land acknowledgment, and reviewed the  
4 agenda. There will be two meetings. The first is the general meeting and the second  
5 session is a closed meeting with the new body for officer elections.

### 6 7 **Culture Value Spotlight – Open Communication**

8 Jenny Hansen, Communications Committee, shared thoughts about this month's culture  
9 value on Open Communication. President Chesley asked the body to share culture value  
10 activities used in their departments. We would like to share these activities with Staff  
11 Assembly.

### 12 13 **Approval of May 2021, General Assembly Meeting Minutes**

14 President Chesley referenced the minutes that were distributed to the members in  
15 advance of the meeting for discussion and approval. Since the minutes were distributed  
16 late, time was provided during the meeting for the body to review.

17  
18 New members were advised on basic parliamentary procedures, Roberts Rules of Order,  
19 majority vote or consensus of members to approve resolutions, and how to end a General  
20 Assembly meeting.

21  
22 The language used to accept the General Assembly meeting minutes should be as  
23 follows:

24 "I, [state your name], move to accept the [month and year] meeting minutes."  
25 Another member will follow with "I, [state your name], second the motion."  
26

27 The President will open the floor for discussion, changes, or edits. The discussion will be  
28 closed by restating the motion and puts the question to vote. Those in favor of the motion  
29 say "Aye." Those opposed say "No." Members should abstain if they were not present for  
30 the meeting or did not review the minutes. The Parliamentarian tracks the motion.

31  
32 Jackie Mardirossian moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Gloria Halfacre  
33 seconded. Motion passed by majority voice consent. 42 members present (Oppose – 0;  
34 Abstain - 4).  
35

### 36 **Resolutions**

#### 37 1. **Staff Assembly Reorganization** – Phil Turner

38 The Ad hoc reorg committee - Renee Almassizadeh, Robert Boyd, Mark Malan,  
39 Brian Mico, Phil Turner, and President Chesley worked on this over the last 18  
40 months. The body voted and approved the 30 senate and 30 representative model.  
41 There will be 60 active members with 4 officers. Elections will be conducted  
42 annually. It is proposed to shift officer elections to February to allow time to transfer  
43 knowledge before they hold office in July. The President appoints the chairs and  
44 co-chairs of the committees.  
45

46 The floor was opened for discussion.  
47

48 A member asked about the representation of smaller units. They will be rolled in  
49 with similar units to determine representation. Areas will be combined with areas  
50 that have a natural fit. The Chair of Rules and Elections with the support of the

51 committee will propose the best possible selection of representative seats every 4  
52 years.

53  
54 Renee Almassizadeh moved to approve the current reorganization document. Kristi  
55 Culpepper seconded. Motion was passed by majority voice consent. 42 members  
56 present. (Oppose – 0, Abstain – 1).

57  
58 President Chesley expressed appreciation for the hard work and dedication to get  
59 this resolution completed and approved.

60  
61 2. **César Chávez Day** – Kristi Culpepper and Ginny DeFrank  
62 Staff Assembly would like to propose César Chávez Day to be a recognized holiday  
63 by the University. This holiday is observed and recognized by other state  
64 institutions. California schools are closed which works well with child care needs.  
65 The University could be a leader, as a private institution, to observe this holiday as  
66 well as recognizing a cultural value.

67  
68 In addition, Juneteenth was recently approved as a federal holiday and celebrated  
69 this past June 19th. The incoming body will need to decide whether to propose this  
70 day to be a recognized holiday with the administration.

71  
72 The floor was opened for discussion.

73  
74 A member noted the spelling for César Chávez Day should include the accent  
75 marks.

76  
77 A member commented that a holiday is a cost to the University. Are we asking this  
78 day to be an additional holiday? It could impact raises or other trade-offs. The  
79 committee confirmed this would be an additional holiday.

80  
81 President Chesley set expectations that this proposal may not be approved. Some  
82 costs need to be budgeted. It is a serious decision for the organization.

83  
84 Phil Turner moved to accept the proposal to present to the Administration. Bernice  
85 Taylor seconded. Motion was passed by majority voice consent. 42 members  
86 present. (Oppose – 0, Abstain – 0).

87  
88 **Introduction of new members**

89 New members were asked to introduce themselves by name, department, and to share a  
90 value that resonates with them.

91  
92 Members leaving were asked to provide advice to the new members in the chat or unmute  
93 and share. A member suggested sharing all ideas, take initiative, collaborate, and work  
94 together as a team.

95  
96 **President Remarks**

97 President Chesley closed with reflections of personal and professional growth. She  
98 expressed appreciation to each of the Committee Chairs and volunteering their time to  
99 Staff Assembly and representing the community.

101 **Next Meeting**

102 General Assembly: July 30, 2021, 9:30 AM -11:00 AM on Zoom.

103 **Adjournment of the final meeting of the 2020-2021 Staff Assembly**

104 Jackie Mardirossian moved to close the meeting. Richard Schroth seconded. Motion  
105 passed by unanimous voice consent. Meeting was adjourned at 10:21 am.

106  
107 Erika Chesley, Staff Assembly President, called the first meeting of the July 2021 – June  
108 2022 body to order at 10:24 AM.

109  
110 The first meeting for the new body is to conduct officer elections. Staff Assembly President  
111 may be asked to attend and participate in many University committee meetings. It is up to  
112 the President to make selections for participation.

113  
114 Committee Chairs will be appointed by the new president. The Executive Committee  
115 transition will occur about the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July. At that time the Committee Chairs will  
116 establish their teams by reviewing member selections and skill sets.

117  
118 The President will transfer to the President-elect to close the meeting.

119  
120 **Rules and Elections – Phil Turner, Chair**

121 All 4 officer positions are open for nominations.

122 ○ President

- 123 ■ 2 candidates – Kristi Culpepper & Sara Fried-Gintis.
- 124 ■ Floor was opened for additional nominations. None.
- 125 ■ Candidate Speeches.
- 126 ■ Zoom Poll Vote.
- 127 ■ Kristi Culpepper received 65% of the votes to become President.

128  
129 ○ Vice President

- 130 ■ Lou Nieto previously submitted his name.
- 131 ■ Floor was opened for additional nominations.
- 132 ■ April De La Rosa nominated Sarah Fried-Gintis.
- 133 ■ Zoom Poll Vote for the 2 candidates.
- 134 ■ Sarah Fried-Gintis received 51% of the votes to become Vice President.

135  
136 ○ Secretary

- 137 ■ Linda Mizushima previously submitted her name.
- 138 ■ Floor was opened for additional nominations. None.
- 139 ■ Unanimous decision with only one name.

140  
141 ○ Parliamentarian

- 142 ■ Phil Turner previously submitted his name.
- 143 ■ Floor was opened for additional nominations. None.
- 144 ■ Unanimous decision with only one name.

145  
146 **Presidents Report**

147 President Chesley commented one of her goals as President was to bring staff and faculty  
148 together and to close the divide by combining some meetings. It was not necessary to  
149 have two separate meetings to deliver the same message. She hopes to continue to

150 foster unity between two groups.

151  
152 President Chesley enjoyed serving as President and will still have a year to serve on Staff  
153 Assembly. She would like to be a resource to support the transition. She also reminded  
154 members they are representing the University community at all levels and are fortunate to  
155 be appointed to a committee to represent the staff.

156

157 **Next Meeting**

158 General Assembly: July 30, 2021, 9:30 AM -11:00 AM on Zoom.

159

160 **Adjournment of the first meeting of the July 2021-June 2022 body**

161 Kristi Culpepper, president-elect, expressed words of appreciation and adjourned the  
162 meeting at 11:00 AM.

163

164 Respectfully submitted,

165

166 Linda Mizushima

167 USC Staff Assembly Secretary

168

169

APPROVED