



April 2, 2019

Dear USC community,

I write to inform you that **Michael Quick**, our provost and senior vice president for academic affairs, and **Carol Mauch Amir**, our senior vice president for legal affairs and professionalism, have each notified me of their intent to retire from their positions, effective June 30, 2019. Dr. Quick will return to the faculty, where he is a professor of biological sciences in the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

I wish to take this opportunity to comment on their many contributions over the years. During his tenure as provost, Michael focused on strategic initiatives that advanced our university and raised our profile internationally. These initiatives included working with deans and other academic leaders to hire and retain extraordinarily accomplished faculty; recruiting the highest achieving and most diverse student body in the history of the university; and supporting faculty in achieving the largest extramural research funding portfolio in USC's history. Michael developed an effective partnership with the Academic Senate, as well as the graduate and undergraduate student governments, and he mobilized our university efforts on such "wicked problems" as homelessness, sustainability, and immigration, all with a focus on social justice.

Drawing on his own experience as a first-generation college student, Michael spearheaded our efforts to advance diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout our university structures, and partnered with faculty, students, and staff on the Diversity Council. Every school at USC now has a diversity liaison and a diversity plan, and Michael created a matching program to provide \$50 million to support diversity and inclusion efforts in the schools. Further, he established task forces to work on consequential issues such as DACA and sexual harassment, and advocated for new programs and services to support wellness in our community. He championed our pipeline programs—notably Bovard Scholars—to support high-achieving, lower income students and to prepare them for success in higher education. He also supported our research, teaching, practice, and clinical faculty—or RTPC faculty—by establishing promotion ladders and greatly increasing minimum salaries, while emphasizing the importance of excellent teaching. In returning to the faculty, Michael will continue to share his wisdom and wit with colleagues and students.

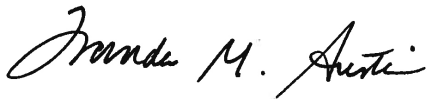
Carol Mauch Amir arrived at USC in 1999 as an attorney working with the health sciences, rising to the general counsel position, and more recently becoming senior vice president for legal affairs and professionalism. In her long career at USC, her strategic thinking and expertise have been instrumental in a number of efforts, including the consolidation and acquisition of the Keck Hospital from Tenet Healthcare and the subsequent growth of the health enterprise, support for the transformation of Exposition Park, and the ongoing legal defense of the university.

In the past year, Carol has overseen the establishment of the Office of Professionalism and Ethics (OPE), which for the first time creates a central location for investigation, monitoring, and tracking of all types of complaints at the university. She helped formalize our initiatives to advance culture change, including structuring the President's Culture Commission and the Working Group on Culture, and recruited a chief ethics and compliance officer. She has worked with the audit and compliance committee of the board of trustees to increase the scope and substance of the reporting and monitoring undertaken by that committee. Carol's leadership in building the division of the Office of Legal Affairs and Professionalism has been important to the future of USC, and exemplifies the lasting ways that we can effect culture change at USC.

I am personally grateful to Michael and Carol for working closely with me as we prepare for our new president's arrival this summer. They have shown tremendous dedication to our university and its community and have led with integrity and compassion. I hope you will join me in wishing them well in their future endeavors.

President-elect Folt and I will work together to select their successors. For the provost position, we will name an interim provost in the coming weeks, and identify a chair of the search committee, which will include faculty across an array of schools at USC. Our search for both positions will be national in scope and exhaustive in reach. We will keep you posted on our progress, as appropriate.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wanda M. Austin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wanda M. Austin  
Interim President