April 29, 2019

Dear USC Community,

We are delighted to announce the appointment of David W. Wright as USC’s senior vice president for administration, effective immediately. Mr. Wright will provide top oversight of key departments and functions that support our academic mission and affect virtually every part of life on our campuses, including public safety, real estate planning and development, student dining and housing, and parking and transportation. Mr. Wright, who has served in this role on an interim basis since July, will report directly to the president.

This is a key role in our senior leadership, and our community will benefit greatly from Mr. Wright’s sound judgment, experience, and institutional knowledge. In addition to being responsible for keeping the everyday functions of USC running smoothly for tens of thousands of students, faculty, and staff, Mr. Wright will oversee the operations of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, as well as USC Bookstores and The USC Hotel, which is owned and operated by the university.

Mr. Wright’s promotion into this role speaks to his many years of exceptional management skill at USC. In 2014, he was first appointed associate senior vice president for administrative operations, overseeing such vital programs as security, environmental health and sustainability, and fire safety and emergency planning. During his interim period, he continued to perform these duties and served on the President’s Culture Commission, which stands at the fore of efforts to improve campus culture and accountability. He is already extremely familiar with our efforts to improve our campus culture, and will work closely with members of our community to effect change. Mr. Wright also served as co-chair of the Campus Planning Committee of the Board, offering guidance on USC’s campuses and facilities and new construction.

Mr. Wright’s previous experience in higher education and private industry lends him a broad perspective that will prove invaluable in his new role. He previously served a four-year stint as our assistant vice president for finance and business support. Prior to that, he was director of finance and accounting for USC Auxiliary Services, the umbrella unit that manages such functions as housing and transportation. He joined the university in 2005 as controller of
USC Bookstores. He has also held senior positions at Biola University, Deloitte & Touche, Disneyland Resort, and WEA Manufacturing. Mr. Wright earned his bachelor’s degree at USC and an MBA from UCLA.

Please join us in congratulating Mr. Wright on his appointment, and in extending him our best wishes for continued success.

Sincerely,

Wanda M. Austin
Interim President

Carol L. Folt
President-elect