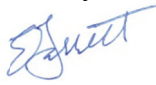




MEMORANDUM

TO: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff

FROM: Elizabeth Garrett   
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: January 12, 2011

SUBJECT: Faculty Hiring Initiative in the Neurosciences

Office of the Provost

Elizabeth Garrett  
Provost and  
Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Frances R. and  
John J. Duggan  
Professor of Law,  
Political Science  
and Public Policy

The field of neuroscience is unique in the breadth of its inquiry, touching on disciplines as diverse as the arts, biology, business, economics, engineering, gerontology, law, medicine, philosophy, political science, and psychology, among others. At USC, the study of neuroscience spans multiple schools and research institutes, and includes faculty and students not only on the University Park and Health Sciences campuses, but also colleagues at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles and the House Ear Institute. The interdisciplinary Ph.D. Program in Neuroscience has more than 100 graduate students pursuing their degrees under the supervision of more than 90 training faculty. Because of the unique interdisciplinary nature of neuroscience at USC, as well as the importance of the study of the brain (and brain disorders) for any major research university in the 21st Century, the Provost’s Office has worked with the various schools to pursue academic excellence in this arena.

Provost’s Professor Pat Levitt has agreed to chair a faculty committee that will focus on assessing and identifying areas within the field of neuroscience that are crucial for raising USC Neuroscience to a level of undisputed academic excellence, and recruiting transformative faculty who will accelerate that rise. Working with the deans, I will provide support to aid in the recruitment of such faculty. In addition, the committee will work with the more than 90 faculty members involved in the neuroscience program to recommend ways to better transcend school and disciplinary boundaries, to integrate research and teaching on our two campuses, to collaborate on significant proposals for external funding and philanthropic support, and to ensure that the research done at USC has the

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impact and influence it merits. The committee membership is provided in an attachment to this memorandum.

I look forward to receiving from schools the names of outstanding neuroscientists who should become part of our USC community. It is expected that these faculty will have a record of accomplishment that clearly distinguishes them as major scholarly figures, and that there will be convincing evidence of future productivity and influence. Consideration will be given to the proposed faculty member's success in mentoring Ph.D. students, in attracting top post-doctoral fellows and junior faculty, and in interdisciplinary collaboration. In addition to providing the CV, nominators should discuss the likelihood that such recruitment will be successful, and how the work of the scholar will complement the work being done by our own exceptional faculty. Hiring clusters of faculty will also be considered.

I note that we continue to pursue other faculty hiring initiatives that have successfully brought outstanding new colleagues to our academic community, such as the initiative to recruit Provost's Professors, whose work is interdisciplinary and who have appointments in more than one school, and the initiative to identify, recruit and retain scholars who add to the diversity of our university at all levels of the tenure track.

Submissions will be rapidly reviewed by the faculty committee who will advise me on the strengths and weaknesses of each candidate. My office will then work with the relevant dean or deans to determine the types of university-level assistance and resources that can be provided to achieve success in recruiting the candidate. Submissions will be accepted on a rolling basis. To submit candidate name(s) for consideration, or for additional information, please email Executive Vice Provost Michael Quick at [evp@usc.edu](mailto:evp@usc.edu).

cc: C. L. Max Nikias  
Robert Abeles  
Todd Dickey  
Al Checcio  
Martha Harris

Neuroscience Advisory Committee

Pat Levitt, Provost's Professor of Neuroscience, Psychiatry & Pharmacy

Roberta Brinton, R. Pete Vanderveen Chair in Therapeutic Discovery and Development and  
Professor of Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences

Antonio Damasio, David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience

Mark Humayun, Professor of Ophthalmology, Biomedical Engineering, and Cell &  
Neurobiology

Larry Swanson, Milo Don and Lucille Appleman Professor of Biological Sciences