MEMORANDUM

To: Faculty, Staff and Students
USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

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

Date: September 26, 2011

Subject: Dean Search for the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters,
Arts and Sciences

On behalf of President Nikias, I am announcing an international search for the new
dean of the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. As
you know, Howard Gillman has elected to step down as dean following the 2011-
2012 academic year. Under Dean Gillman’s leadership, the school has made
unprecedented accomplishments, including a historic naming gift.

An advisory search committee has been appointed and will move quickly to identify
and recruit outstanding candidates for the position. Given the strategic importance
of the Dornsife College to USC’s success, I will chair the search committee. Dean
Avishai Sadan of the Ostrow School of Dentistry and Professor Michael Quick,
Executive Vice Provost, will serve as vice chairs. The search committee includes
eminent professors from across the Dornsife College. A roster of the committee
accompanies this memorandum. I am also very pleased that Dana and David
Dornsife have agreed to serve as special advisers to me during this search process.

USC’s pursuit of even greater distinction in research and teaching relies in large part
on the continued progress of the Dornsife College. The scholarship and creative
work of the school’s faculty is not only crucial to its own success but to the success
of our professional schools and to USC’s academic reputation. USC Dornsife
touches all undergraduate students at USC, providing a liberal arts foundation as they
move forward in programs spanning the arts and humanities, the social and natural
sciences, and the professions. Excellence in Dornsife College doctoral programs, too,
is crucial for our ascent to the highest reaches of academic prominence and influence.
The 21st Dean of the USC Dornsife College will find a robust foundation on which to
build a prodigious future.

As the search committee moves forward, the same five rules of engagement will
guide its work as have been observed in other dean searches: (1) The final choice of
the dean is made by the president. (2) During the entire process, there will be no
votes by any group of constituency. (3) Those who are asked to interview the
final candidates will send their comments regarding strengths and possible weaknesses of these candidates to me directly and confidentially. (4) There will be no final vote within the search committee. (5) All nominations will come before the search committee without filtering.

On behalf of the search committee, I want to encourage your participation in the search process for the next dean of the USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Ilene H. Nagel of the executive search firm Russell Reynolds Associates will assist us in locating and recruiting candidates; nominations and input may be sent via e-mail to uscdornsfidean@russellreynolds.com. We will keep you informed, as appropriate, of our progress in the search. Please be assured that the successful completion of the search in a timely manner is an extremely high priority for the university.

cc: C. L. Max Nikias
    Robert Aheles
    Al Checcio
    Todd Dickey
    Carol Mauch Amir
    Tom Sayles
    Dana and David Dornsife
    Board of Councilors of the USC Dornsife College of Letters Arts and Sciences
USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
Dean Search Committee

Chair
Elizabeth Garrett, Provost and Senior Vice President

Vice Chairs
Avishai Sadan, G. Donald and Marian James Montgomery Dean’s Chair at the Ostrow School of Dentistry

Michael W. Quick, Executive Vice Provost and Professor of Biological Sciences

Committee Members
Daniela Bleichmar, Assistant Professor of Art History and History

Leo Braudy, University Professor and Leo S. Bing Chair in English and American Literature

Hanna Damasio, University Professor, Dana Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience, and Professor of Psychology, Neuroscience and Neurology

Katrina J. Edwards, Professor of Biological Sciences

Percival Everett, Distinguished Professor of English

Eric M. Friedlander, Dean’s Professor of Mathematics

Ange-Marie Hancock, Associate Professor of Political Science

David C. Kang, Professor of International Relations and Business

Peter C. Mancall, Professor of History and Anthropology

Mathew D. McCubbins, Provost Professor of Business, Law, and Political Economy

Charles E. McKenna, Professor of Chemistry

Manuel Pastor, Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity

Scott Soames, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy