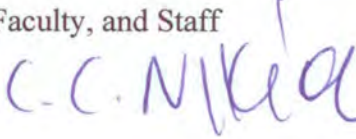


MEMORANDUM

To: Academic Deans, Faculty, and Staff
From: C. L. Max Nikias 
Date: April 4, 2011
Subject: Senior Vice President for University Relations

C. L. Max Nikias
President

Robert C. Packard
President's Chair

Malcolm R. Currie Chair
in Technology
and the Humanities

I am writing to announce that **Martha Harris** has elected to retire from her position as senior vice president for university relations, following 32 years of distinguished service at USC. She will officially step down on June 30, and I am pleased to announce the promotion of **Thomas Sayles** to senior vice president for university relations, effective July 1. Mr. Sayles came to USC in 2009, and has proven to be an invaluable member of the university's senior leadership, as well as an inspiring voice for our entire community.

A member of the University Relations team, Mr. Sayles currently serves as USC's vice president for government and civic engagement. In his elevated role, he will provide strategic direction and leadership for USC's public relations, outreach and reputation. He will continue to oversee the university's civic engagement and government relations efforts and to strengthen its relationships with external stakeholders. He will immediately conduct a national search for a vice president of marketing and public relations, and this person will report directly to him.

In the years before his arrival at USC, Mr. Sayles practiced law in the private and public sectors, leaving the practice of law to serve as California's commissioner of corporations, and then later as secretary of business, transportation, and housing. He returned to the private sector to work for Sempra Energy as vice president of public affairs. During his career at Sempra and its affiliated companies, he managed government affairs, community relations, communications, and consumer marketing. Just prior to joining USC, Mr. Sayles was senior vice president for government affairs and corporate communications at Rentech, Inc., an alternative fuels company headquartered in Los Angeles.

In 2009, Mayor Villaraigosa appointed Mr. Sayles to serve on the governing board of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), and Mr. Sayles currently serves as president of the LADWP Board of Commissioners. Three different California governors have appointed Mr. Sayles to serve on boards and commissions, including the University of California Board of Regents,

Senior Vice President for University Relations

April 4, 2011

Page 2

the California Community Colleges Board of Trustees, and the Commission on Building for the 21st Century.

Mr. Sayles is a member of the board of directors of Unified Grocers, the largest buying cooperative for independent grocers in the Western United States. He has served on the boards of directors of Golden State Bancorp (California Federal Bank) and Glendale Federal Bank.

Born and raised in South Los Angeles, not far from USC's University Park campus, Mr. Sayles earned a law degree from Harvard Law School and a bachelor's degree with distinction from Stanford University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa.

Before closing, I also want to thank Martha Harris for her singular dedication to USC and her tremendous passion for our community. She has skillfully served under four different presidents, and has helped our schools and departments align their individual public relations efforts with the overall goals of the university. Over the course of her career, she has mentored an entire generation of public relations professionals, and we look forward to welcoming Martha and her husband Morgan Lyons back to our campuses for many years to come.

Please join me in thanking Martha Harris for her many contributions to USC, and in congratulating Tom Sayles on his well-deserved appointment. We look forward to building on their successes, and to taking USC to even greater heights.

cc: USC Board of Trustees
Elizabeth Garrett
Al Checcio
Robert Abeles
Todd R. Dickey
Martha Harris
Pat Haden
Thomas Sayles