

May 22, 2018

To the Board of Trustees:

We, the undersigned faculty, write to express our outrage and disappointment over the mounting evidence of President Nikias' failure to protect our students, our staff, and our colleagues from repeated and pervasive sexual harassment and misconduct. In his recent letter to the University community, President Nikias referred to the actions of gynecologist George Tyndall as a "breach of trust." With all due respect, President Nikias' own actions and omissions amount to a breach of trust. He has lost the moral authority to lead the University, and in addition, to lead the investigation of institutional failures that allowed this misconduct to persist over several decades. President Nikias must step aside to allow new leaders to take the necessary steps to repair the damage.

As the Los Angeles Times has reported, USC kept a physician in a position of power and trust who abused that power and trust to sexually assault and degrade women students, targeting for abuse the most vulnerable international and minority students. The University's conduct is as much at issue in this case as the physician's. Numerous students and nursing staff reported Dr. Tyndall's misconduct in the years between 2000 and 2014, yet Dr. Tyndall was suspended only in 2016, after one brave staff person reported him to USC's rape crisis center. After concluding that the charges against Dr. Tyndall were true, the University allowed him to resign quietly. By failing to notify the state Medical Board, law enforcement, or patients, the university allowed Dr. Tyndall to keep his medical license, continue preying on women outside USC, and escape the consequences of his abuse. President Nikias writes that "in hindsight," it was wrong not to notify the Board.

The University Administration's actions have been wrong at every turn, and not only in hindsight. In this case, as in prior cases, faced with an ongoing pattern of serious wrongdoing by a powerful University official, the University has kept the wrongdoing quiet, settled financially with the wrongdoer in secret, and denied any responsibility on the part of the University. There still has been no public report of the investigation into the two cases involving USC medical deans, nor any visible attempt to determine what University administrators knew and when they knew it, and why they waited as long as they did to take action. We lament that, time after time, the administration has admitted to its failings only after being exposed by the Los Angeles Times. We also watch with deep distress as the university's reputation is marred in the national press and in international circles.

We call upon President Nikias to step aside, and upon the Board of Trustees to restore moral leadership to the university. We also call on the Board to reaffirm the core mission of the University, "the development of human beings and society as a whole through the cultivation and enrichment of the human mind and spirit." We can only reach our full development as a community if we support all our members – students, staff, faculty, and alumni – in safety, respect, and trust. Restore our trust in USC by standing up for its highest ideals.

Sincerely yours,

1. Tom Abrams, Professor of Cinematic Arts
2. Elinor Accampo, Professor Emerita of History
3. Paul S. Adler, Harold Quinton Chair in Business Policy and Professor of Management and Organization, Sociology, and Environmental Studies
4. Ange-Marie Hancock Alfaro, Dean's Professor of Gender Studies and Political Science
5. Mike Ananny, Associate Professor of Communication and Journalism
6. Murali Annavaram, Professor, Electrical Engineering
7. Michael Arbib, University Professor Emeritus and Fletcher Jones Professor of Computer Science Emeritus
8. Don Arnold, Professor of Biological Sciences
9. Sandra J. Ball-Rokeach, Professor of Communication and Sociology Emerita
10. Lois Banner, Professor Emerita of History
11. François Bar, Professor of Communication and Spatial Science
12. Peter Baxendale, Professor of Mathematics
13. Marjorie Becker, Associate Professor, History and English
14. Judith M. Bennett, John R. Hubbard Professor Emerita of History
15. Estela Bensimon, Dean's Professor in Educational Equity and Director of The Center for Urban Education
16. Brian Bernards, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Comparative Literature
17. Timothy J. Biblarz, Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology
18. Nelson E. Bickers, Professor of Physics
19. Marlon G. Boarnet, Professor of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis
20. Don Bohlinger, Professor of Cinematic Arts
21. Francis Bonahon, Professor of Mathematics
22. John Boudreau, Professor of Management and Organization
23. Laurie A. Brand, Robert Grandford Wright Professor of International Relations and Middle East Studies
24. John S. Brekke, Frances Larson Professor of Social Work Research
25. Bruce Alan Brown, Professor of Musicology
26. Linda J. Brown, Associate Professor of Cinematic Arts
27. Sharon M. Carnicke, Professor of Dramatic Arts and Slavic Languages and Literatures
28. Ben Carrington, Associate Professor of Sociology and Journalism
29. Julie Cederbaum, Associate Professor of Social Work
30. Iris Chi, Chinese American Golden Age Association Frances Wu Chair of Chinese Elderly
31. K.C. Cole, Professor of Journalism
32. J.D. Connor, Associate Professor of Cinematic Arts
33. Midge Costin, Kay Rose Professor in Cinematic Arts
34. Nick Cull, Professor of Public Diplomacy
35. Thomas G. Cummings, Professor of Management and Organization
36. Joanna Demers, Professor of Musicology
37. William Deverell, Professor of History
38. Roberto Ignacio Diaz, Associate Professor of Spanish and Comparative Literature
39. Christina Dunbar-Hester, Associate Professor of Communication

40. Alice Echols, Barbra Streisand Professor of Contemporary Gender Studies and Professor of History
41. Suzanne Edmands, Professor of Biological Sciences
42. Nina Eliasoph, Professor of Sociology
43. Moh El-Naggar, Robert D. Beyer ('81) Early Career Chair in Natural Sciences and Associate Professor of Physics, Biological Sciences, and Chemistry
44. Robert D. English, Associate Professor of International Relations, Environmental Studies, and Slavic Languages and Literatures
45. JoAnn M. Farver, Professor of Psychology
46. Sarah Feakins, Associate Professor of Earth Sciences
47. Jack Feinberg, Professor of Physics
48. Edward Finegan, Professor Emeritus of Linguistics and Law
49. Peer C. Fiss, Professor of Management and Organization and Sociology
50. Kate Flint, Provost Professor of Art History and English
51. Susan L. Forsburg, Gabilan Distinguished Professor in Science and Engineering and Professor of Biological Sciences
52. Kenneth Foster, Professor of Practice and Director, Arts Leadership at USC
53. Robeson Taj Frazier, Assoc. Professor of Communication
54. Gelya Frank, Professor of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy and Anthropology
55. Alice Gambrell, Associate Professor of English
56. Diane Ghirardo, Professor of the History of Architecture
57. Adam Knight Gilbert, Associate Professor of Early Music and Musicology
58. Rotem Gilbert, Associate Professor of Musicology and Early Music, Thornton School of Music
59. Jason Glenn, Associate Professor of History
60. Joshua Goldstein, Associate Professor of History and East Asian Languages and Cultures
61. Myron F. Goodman, Professor of Biological Sciences and Chemistry
62. Nitin Govil, Associate Professor of Cinematic Arts
63. Richard K. Green, Professor and Lusk Chair in Real Estate
64. Jennifer Greenhill, Associate Professor of Art History
65. Ariela J. Gross, John B. and Alice R. Sharp Professor of Law and History
66. Larry P. Gross, Professor of Communication
67. Wolf Gruner, Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and Professor of History
68. Thomas Gustafson, Associate Professor, English and American Studies and Ethnicity
69. Stephan Haas, Professor and Chair of Physics and Astronomy
70. Karen Halttunen, Professor of History
71. William Handley, Associate Professor of English
72. Mark J. Harris, Distinguished Professor of Cinematic Arts, Mona and Bernard Kantor Chair in Production
73. Olivia C. Harrison, Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature
74. Hossein Hashemi, Professor of Electrical Engineering
75. Dennis Hedgecock, Paxson H. Offield Professor in Fisheries Ecology
76. Benjamin Henwood, Associate Professor, Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work
77. Albert Herrera, Professor of Biological Sciences
78. Edwin Hill, Associate Professor of French and American Studies and Ethnicity

79. Thomas A. Hollihan, Professor of Communication
80. Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, Florence Everline Professor of Sociology
81. David Howard, Professor of Cinematic Arts
82. Suzanne Hudson, Associate Professor of Art History and Fine Arts
83. Kyung Moon Hwang, Professor of History
84. Priya Jaikumar, Associate Professor of Cinematic Arts
85. David E. James, Professor of Cinematic Arts
86. Georgia Jeffries, Associate Professor of Cinematic Arts
87. Henry Jenkins, Provost Professor of Communication, Journalism and Cinematic Arts
88. Richard Jewell, Professor Emeritus of Cinematic Arts
89. Clifford V. Johnson, Professor of Physics
90. Amelia Jones, Robert A. Day Professor of Art and Design
91. Jane Junn, Professor of Political Science and Gender and Sexuality Studies
92. Aniko Imre, Professor and Chair of Cinema and Media Studies
93. Peggy Kamuf, Professor Emerita of French and Comparative Literature
94. Gregory Keating, William T. Dalessi Professor of Law and Philosophy
95. David Kempe, Associate Professor of Computer Science
96. Adrianna Kezar, Professor of Education
97. James R. Kincaid, Aerol Arnold Professor Emeritus of English
98. Marsha Kinder, University Professor Emerita
99. Edward Kleinbard, Robert C. Packard Trustee Chair in Law
100. Dorinne Kondo, Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity and Anthropology
101. Vitaly Kresin, Professor of Physics
102. Bhaskar Krishnamachari, Professor of Electrical Engineering
103. Anna Krylov, Gabilan Distinguished Professor in Science and Engineering and Professor of Chemistry
104. Josh Kun, Chair in Cross-Cultural Communication, Professor of Communication
105. Lon Kurashige, Professor of History and Spatial Sciences
106. David Lavond, Professor of Psychology
107. Sonya Lee, Associate Professor of Art History and East Asian Languages and Cultures
108. Lisa Leeman, Professor of Cinematic Arts
109. Paul Lerner, Professor of History
110. Anthony F. J. Levi, Professor of Electrical Engineering
111. Janet Levin, Professor of Philosophy
112. Audrey Li, Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Linguistics
113. Paul Lichterman, Professor of Sociology and Religion
114. Emily Liman, Professor of Biological Sciences
115. Megan R. Luke, Associate Professor of Art History
116. Nancy Lutkehaus, Professor of Anthropology, Political Science and Gender Studies
117. Noah Malmstadt, Associate Professor of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Biomedical Engineering, and Chemistry
118. Frank Manis, Professor of Psychology
119. Gayla Margolin, Professor of Psychology
120. Doe Mayer, Mary Pickford Chair of Film and Television Production

121. Edwin McCann, Professor of Philosophy and English
122. Jacquelyn McCroskey, John Milner Professor of Child Welfare
123. Teresa McKenna, Associate Professor Emerita of English
124. Jill McNitt-Gray, Professor of Biological Sciences and Biomedical Engineering
125. Tara McPherson, Professor of Cinematic Arts
126. Natania Meeker, Associate Professor of French and Comparative Literature
127. Michael A. Messner, Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies
128. Beth E. Meyerowitz, Professor of Psychology
129. Matthew Michael, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences
130. Jon Miller, Professor Emeritus of Sociology
131. Tania Modleski, Florence R. Scott Professor of English and Professor of English and Comparative Literature
132. Peter Monge, Professor of Communication and Professor of Management and Organization
133. Judy Muller, Professor Emerita of Journalism
134. Carol Muske-Dukes, Professor of English
135. Juliet Ann Musso, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Management
136. Dowell Myers, Professor of Public Policy
137. Maggie Nelson, Professor of English
138. Viet Thanh Nguyen, University Professor and Aerol Arnold Chair of English
139. Panivong Norindr, Associate Professor of French & Comparative Literature
140. John Odell, Professor Emeritus of International Relations
141. Amy F. Ogata, Professor of Art History
142. Ann Owens, Associate Professor of Sociology
143. Tim Page, Professor of Music and Journalism
144. Christine Panushka, Professor of Cinematic Arts
145. Sunyoung Park, Associate Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures and Gender Studies
146. Manuel Pastor, Turpanjian Chair in Civil Society and Social Change and Professor of Sociology and American Studies and Ethnicity
147. Scott Paterson, Professor of Earth Sciences
148. Nathan Perl-Rosenthal, Associate Professor of History
149. Michael Peyser, Professor of Cinematic Arts
150. Elena Pierpaoli, Professor of Physics and Astronomy
151. Krzysztof Pilch, Professor of Physics and Astronomy
152. Amanda Pope, Professor, School of Cinematic Arts
153. Michelle Povinelli, Gabilan Distinguished Associate Professor of Science and Engineering and Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Physics and Astronomy
154. Emily Putnam-Hornstein, Associate Professor of Social Work
155. Hanna Reisler, Lloyd Armstrong Jr. Professor in Science and Engineering, Professor of Chemistry
156. Stephen Rich, Professor of Law
157. Violina Rindova, Captain Henry W. Simonsen Chair in Strategic Entrepreneurship, Professor of Management
158. Howard A. Rodman, Professor of Cinematic Arts

159. Daria Roithmayr, George T. and Harriet E. Pflieger Professor of Law
160. David Rollo, Professor of English
161. David Roman, Professor of English and American Studies and Ethnicity
162. Margaret Rosenthal, Professor of Italian
163. John Carlos Rowe, USC Associates' Professor of the Humanities
164. Margaret Russett, Professor of English
165. George J. Sanchez, Professor of History, American Studies & Ethnicity
166. Sergio Sanudo-Wilhelmy, Professor of Biological and Earth Sciences
167. Hilary Schor, Professor of English, Comparative Literature, and Law
168. David Schwartz, Associate Professor of Psychology
169. Vanessa R. Schwartz, Professor of Art History and History
170. Lisa Schweitzer, Professor of Urban Planning and Spatial Analysis
171. Ellen Seiter, Stephen K. Nenno Chair, Cinema and Media Studies
172. Danzy Senna, Associate Professor of English
173. Laura Isabel Serna, Associate Professor of Cinema and Media Studies
174. Nayan Shah, Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity and History
175. Robin Shakeshaft, Professor of Physics
176. Brett Sheehan, Professor of History and East Asian Languages and Cultures
177. Dan Simon, Richard L. and Maria B. Crutcher Professor of Law and Psychology
178. David Sloane, Professor of Public Policy
179. Kathy Smith, Associate Professor of Cinematic Arts
180. Sheila M. Sofian, Professor of Cinematic Arts
181. Geoffrey Spedding, Professor of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering
182. Craig Stanford, Professor of Biological Sciences and Anthropology
183. Nomi Maya Stolzenberg, Nathan and Lilly Shapell Chair in Law
184. William G. Thalmann, Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature
185. Daniel Tiffany, Professor of English and Comparative Literature
186. Dorian Traube, Associate Professor of Social Work
187. Jennifer B. Unger, Professor of Preventive Medicine
188. Avelardo Valdez, Professor of Social Work and Sociology
189. Jody Agius Vallejo, Associate Professor of Sociology and American Studies and
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190. Nicholas Warner, Professor of Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy
191. Michael Waterman, Professor of Biological Sciences, Mathematics and Computer
Science
192. Gary Watson, Provost Professor of Philosophy and Law
193. Mark Weinstein, Associate Professor of Finance, Business Economics and Law
194. Suzanne L. Wenzel, Richard and Ann Thor Professor in Urban Social
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195. Diane Winston, Knight Chair in Media and Religion, Associate Professor of
Journalism
196. Carol Wise, Associate Professor of International Relations
197. Curt Wittig, Paul A. Miller Professor of Letters, Arts, and Sciences, and Professor
of Chemistry
198. Jason Zevin, Associate Professor of Psychology and Linguistics
199. Chongwu Zhou, Professor of Electrical Engineering

200. Erin Graff Zivin, Professor of Spanish and Portuguese and Comparative Literature