

TO: University of Southern California Students
CC: President C. L. Max Nikias
Provost Michael Quick
Vice President of Student Affairs Ainsley Carry
USC Board of Trustees
USC Faculty Senate
USC Staff Assembly
USC Alumni Association

FROM: Graduate Student Government Executive Board
Undergraduate Student Government Executive Team

DATE: May 25, 2018

RE: Support for Affected Students at University of Southern California

Dear University of Southern California Students,

The recent charges against Dr. George Tyndall, along with the University’s absolute negligence to address the issue despite numerous reports by students, faculty, and staff over the past three decades, leave us both deeply concerned and outraged. No one should ever suffer such abuse, humiliation, or violation. Students should be able to trust their doctors and the institutions that employ them; that trust was grossly betrayed, evidenced by the fact that over 200 calls have been made to the University’s hotline since the story first broke¹ and numerous lawsuits have since developed.²

Graduate Student Government (GSG) and Undergraduate Student Government (USG) exist to advocate for the entire student community and, in the wake of recent reporting, we want to say to all students who have been and continue to be impacted by Tyndall’s predatory actions — we stand with you, we believe you, and we support you.

Several statements have been issued by the Office of the President and the Office of the Provost admitting certain instances of lack of judgment by University administrators, stating what facts have been uncovered, and revealing the University’s current action plans. The University, however, has not assumed responsibility for several transgressions, and we, as advocates for the student body whose members were affected, believe the University owes the entire Trojan Family answers to the following questions:

¹ Letter from President C. L. Max Nikias to the USC Community, May 18, 2018.

pressroom.usc.edu/letter-from-president-nikias-to-the-usc-community-may-18-2018

² As of the writing of this statement, the cases include Chi v. University of Southern California et al, Daniella Mohazab v. University of Southern California, Jane Doe 1 v. Dr. George Tyndall, J.C. v. University of Southern California, and Sade Monique Thompson v. University of Southern California.

- 1) Why, despite former patients coming forward to report abuse and malpractice, did the University do nothing to protect students for decades?
- 2) Who was in charge of determining which reports were “concerning”³ and why were students never updated about the status of their complaints?
- 3) Why did the University allow Tyndall to quietly retire rather than take the appropriate actions to protect its students and prosecute him, no matter the financial, temporal, or other costs?
- 4) What and whose logic was used to determine that a settlement is the “most expedient way to remove someone from the University”⁴ despite the grave implications of letting a known sexual assailant go free?
- 5) Why should students find any comfort in the knowledge that University administrators did not act sooner because they “didn’t [know]”⁵ about the extent of the abuse for two decades, reflecting either an unwillingness or inability of leadership to thoroughly investigate and identify problems, as well as a deeper cultural problem in which University sexual assault allegations go uninvestigated and students are discouraged from reporting?
- 6) Who made the decision not to report Tyndall to the California Medical Board and the Los Angeles Police Department immediately after the discovery of racially discriminatory and sexually assaultive behavior?⁶
- 7) Why were students — the seemingly principal, if not sole, targets of Tyndall’s actions — not included in the creation, implementation, and oversight of the University’s action plans that are supposedly designed to protect them, but failed to do so for three decades?

Moving forward, we call upon University administrators to do the following in order to achieve the goal of a “truly collaborative and broadly informed effort”⁷:

- 1) Include GSG and USG as partners in the creation of any and all decision-making bodies that establish boards, task forces, committees, or coalitions — such as, and including, the President’s Campus Culture Commission and the Leadership Training Academy — designed to address campus culture, campus climate, and — most importantly — issues of rape, sexual assault, and other forms of offensive misconduct.

³ Statement of Facts from Senior Vice President Todd Dickey, Title IX Coordinator and Executive Director Gretchen Dahlinger Means, Associate Senior Vice President Laura LaCorte, May 15, 2018.

pressroom.usc.edu/statement-of-facts-may-15-2018

⁴ Message from Provost Michael Quick, May 21, 2018.

pressroom.usc.edu/message-from-provost-michael-quick-may-21-2018

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ Letter from President C. L. Max Nikias to the USC Community, May 15, 2018.

pressroom.usc.edu/letter-to-community-may-15-2018

⁷ Action Plan from President C. L. Max Nikias, May 22, 2018.

actionplan.usc.edu/files/2018/05/USC-community_5.22.18.pdf

- 2) Instate multiple student representatives as full participating members of any and all decision-making bodies and their established parties, as defined above.
- 3) Cooperate with all legal proceedings and assume full responsibility for the actions of University agents — regardless of position — who contributed to Tyndall’s ability to continue to assault students.
- 4) Ensure that the University will not academically, professionally, legally, or otherwise harm or harass any current students, prospective students, alumni, or their friends and families for exercising their right to free speech in speaking out or pursuing lawsuits against the University⁸.
- 5) Act on the University’s repeatedly stated commitment^{9,10} to end sexual assault on USC’s campuses, which have been nationally recognized for high rates of sexual assault since the 2015 Campus Climate Survey conducted by the Association of American Universities^{11,12,13,14}.

We call upon USC administrative offices, divisions, and their subsidiaries to work with GSG, USG, and the student community as a whole to address these issues. As President Nikias has stated in his action plan, the senior administration owes this to us.

To our fellow students, know that we will continue to carefully monitor this situation as it develops. We are committed to working closely with students, faculty, staff, and the administration to ensure student safety and wellness on campus. If you have additional concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us. You can find the contact information of GSG officers at gsg.usc.edu/aboutgsg/executive-board, and you can reach USG at usgpres@usc.edu.

⁸ California Anti-SLAPP Project, February 28, 2016.

casp.net/sued-for-freedom-of-speech-california/what-is-a-first-amendment-slapp

⁹ USC Initiative to Join AAU’s Campus Climate Survey, March 30, 2015.

studentaffairs.usc.edu/campus-climate-survey-on-sexual-assault-and-sexual-misconduct

¹⁰ Results of USC Student Affairs Climate Survey, September 21, 2015.

studentaffairs.usc.edu/climate-survey

¹¹ AAU Climate Survey on Sexual Assault and Sexual Misconduct (2015), September 3, 2015.

aau.edu/key-issues/aau-climate-survey-sexual-assault-and-sexual-misconduct-2015

¹² Daily Trojan Report on Campus Climate Survey, September 21, 2015.

dailytrojan.com/2015/09/21/usc-releases-campus-climate-survey-29-7-female-undergrads-report-sexual-misconduct

¹³ USC Annenberg Media -- Part IV of “The Price of Sex at USC” Series, January 12, 2016.

uscannenbergmedia.com/2016/01/12/part-v-the-cost-of-sexual-assault-at-usc-serial-numbers

¹⁴ Washington Post Report on Sexual Assault Survey, September 21, 2015.

washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2015/09/21/what-a-massive-sexual-assault-survey-showed-about-27-top-u-s-universities/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.54bfafc7bb17

Resources for Students

If you, or anyone you know, was impacted by Tyndall's actions and abuse, there are various avenues of reporting or pursuing charges available to you:

The University has set up a hotline that can be reached at (833) 889-8833, or reports can be filed with USC Compliance Reporting at usc.mycompliancereport.com.

Los Angeles Police Department has opened an investigation and is urging students to contact them directly at (877) 275-5273.

As a reminder, students can contact USC Counseling Services at (213) 740-7711 for those on University Park Campus or (323) 442-5631 for those on Health Sciences Campus. Additional crisis and group support services can be found at engemannshc.usc.edu/counseling.

Sincerely,

Graduate Student Government Executive Board 2018-2019
Undergraduate Student Government Executive Team 2018-2019