

THE ACADEMIC SENATE CANDIDATE INFORMATION FORM

Name: Clifford Neuman

Academic Track and Rank: (RTPC) Associate Professor of Computer Science Practice

Department/School: Computer Science & Information Sciences Institute
Viterbi School of Engineering

Graduate degrees (with year, university, and discipline): *Ph.D. University of Washington, 1992, Computer Science and Engineering; S.B. Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1985. Computer Science and Engineering.*

Major academic responsibilities: *Director, USC Center for Computer Systems Security, Associate Director, Data Science Program (focusing on the computer security curricula).*

Previous service on USC, Senate, or school committees:

Engineering Faculty Council, July 2017-June 2021, July 2022-present

Engineering Faculty Council Vice-Chair, July 2020-June 2021, July 2023-June 2024, July 2025-June 2026

Senator, Academic Senate, July 2020-June 2021, July 2023-June 2024

Secretary General of the Academic Senate, July 2024-June 2026

Committee on Information Services (CIS) 2020-Present (co-chair 2022-2024)

Committee on Finance and Enrollment (COFE), July 2024-present

Information Risk Committee, 2017 – Present

Previous administrative responsibilities at USC:

Director, USC Center for Computer Systems Security, Associate Director, Data Science Program (focusing on the computer security curricula).

Previous service to scholarly or professional associations:

General chair and program chair for the Internet Society Symposium on Network and Distributed System Security. Vice Program Chair, Security Track, International Conference on Distributed Computing Systems (ICDCS), Program Chair, Workshop on Accelerating Trustworthy Internetworking, Program Chair, 4th ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security.

Personal statement: why do you want to serve in this role for the Senate? What are your goals for the Senate?

I believe faculty should play a central role in shaping the direction and policies of the university, in line with our individual aspirations for its future. There are many issues that deserve our attention, including academics, research, academic freedom, DEI, social issues, compensation, benefits, job security, working conditions, institutional reputation, fairness in university processes, and more. We best advocate for our positions when we strive for consensus grounded in facts and informed by respectful debate. It is essential that we listen to all perspectives and encourage those with differing views to speak openly. While our diversity of viewpoints means we may not reach consensus on every issue, we must ensure that differing perspectives—and the reasoning behind them—are clearly communicated to the administration.

At the same time, we must seek to understand the administration's perspective and view them as partners—and, when appropriate, as instruments—in advancing our vision for the university, rather than the reverse. This effort must be accompanied by a commitment to transparency by the administration regarding how and why decisions are made. Through my past role as Secretary General and through service on committees, I have seen cases where this process worked, and also instances where it has not. In all cases I have regularly emphasized to the administration the importance of clearly explaining and justifying decisions to the faculty. Through this mechanism we continue to refine and improve the processes, practices, and policies we support. I believe that serving as Academic Vice President, and subsequently as President of the Senate, would provide a meaningful opportunity to advance these goals.

Clifford Neuman is the Director of USC's Center for Computer Systems Security and a faculty member in Computer Science at the Viterbi School of Engineering. His research focuses on distributed computer systems, computer security, critical infrastructure protection, electronic commerce, privacy, and the societal impact of computing and security technologies. He is also the principal designer of the Kerberos network authentication system, which has been widely used for more than 40 years.