



USC School of Dramatic Arts

*David Bridel
Dean
Braverman Family Dean's Chair*

June 25, 2020

Dear colleagues,

I write to inform you of circumstances that lead me to resign my position as dean of the School of Dramatic Arts.

In 2009, while I was on faculty at SDA, I briefly dated a BFA senior acting student. We dated a few times over a period of weeks and it ended amicably. Years later, I encountered this same student - now an alum - at an SDA event in New York, and we had a friendly exchange for a few minutes.

This relationship was made public at a Town Hall meeting on June 24, which was attended by faculty, current students, and alumni of the MFA in Acting program. In that meeting, an alumna used a term to describe this relationship that is grossly inaccurate. I fully accept, however, that my behavior in 2009 demonstrated a failure in judgment and evidence of irresponsibility.

I apologize, profusely, for any harm I caused by my conduct in 2009.

At this time, I believe that the good health of the School and its future progress will be best served by a leader whose background is not tainted in this way.

I am humbled by your achievements as faculty and staff during the five years that I have been fortunate to work with you in this position. From building brand new initiatives and programs in Social Change, Musical Theatre, the BA Acting Emphasis, Equity Diversity and Inclusion, and the School's Career Center (to name a few), to fostering a culture that is not afraid to examine and question itself in the service of a better education for its students, your expertise and courage in the pursuit of excellence are an inspiration to USC and our discipline at large. I trust that the good work will continue unabated.

Respectfully yours,

David Bridel

