

Notes
Council of Deans
April 21, 2009

EVCP Breslauer made several announcements about the budget and joined the deans in a general discussion about the budget situation and other matters.

The campus budget process will be completed within the next six weeks. In all but one case, units received what they requested as their 2009-10 TAS allocation. The EVCP's willingness to contribute an additional \$2.3M in TAS funding on top of what he set aside originally should enable the campus to meet student demands next year as best as it possibly can, given the campus's financial situation. In response to a question, he said that units should not assume there will be EVCP funds available mid-year to fulfill requests for supplemental TAS allocations.

The campus is half-way to its target for receiving the number of staff applications for the voluntary separation option (VSO) that it needs in order to achieve the targeted budgetary savings for which the VSO was created. The deans were encouraged to remind eligible staff to consider the VSO.

The federal stimulus money that was allocated to UC will have little impact on the university's budget crisis. According to President Yudof, the proposed UC state budget was already adjusted downward equal to the amount the state assumed UC would receive from the federal stimulus package.

The EVCP suggest some talking points to help the deans when discussing the budget with their chairs and faculty.

1) Private universities, which have no state allocations, rely on endowment yield and tuition as their primary revenue sources. As a result, many private universities have been more negatively affected than public universities in the current financial crisis. Possible evidence of this might be the campus's dramatic decline in retention cases from 100 in AY 2008-09 to 20 so far in AY 2009-10. [The total number of retention cases in AY 2008-09 includes cases carried over from the previous year.]

2) Faculty at private universities receive no salary increases in the event of salary freezes. Though UC faculty will receive no cost-of-living increases, eligible faculty will still receive merit increases during a UC salary freeze.

3) Senior administrators and deans are considered UC staff, not faculty. In a salary freeze, these groups will receive no merit increases and no cost-of-living increases.

4) The approximately four hundred campus faculty who have endowed chairs and grants and contracts may, if they have not maxed out with three summer-ninths and if their budgets allow for it, add summer days to their total pay package.

Two hundred sixty staff members are currently on the START program. Seventy-six began the START program in April. The total savings to the campus as of March 1 is \$239K per month. VC Brostrom is among the senior administrators who have chosen the START program.

EVCP Breslauer reminded deans that the reduced budget climate will also mean diminished resources for faculty recruitment and retention. Fundraising for Faculty Excellence Funds has become increasingly important. In addition, he mentioned that it is an important time for units to consider alternative models for faculty and lecturer workload distribution.

The EVCP distributed a handout entitled "Universities Grateful for, but Captive to Generalists", taken from the report "Transforming University Business Practices – Overcoming Obstacles to Realizing Administrative Quality and Efficiency Gains."

Other

The deans spoke at length about the concerns of staff and management about the Career Compass classification decisions. EVCP Breslauer asked them to send their comments, questions, and suggestions to AVC Lustig and AVC Raymond.

The meeting ended with a discussion about the need to move forward on administrative restructuring in order to reduce costs and increase operational efficiency. The deans were generally willing to engage in these efforts, if the administration presented them with the plans and as long as the new systems were sound and reliable.

Please send comments to jwfong@berkeley.edu. Council of Deans agendas and notes are available on the Web at <http://evcp.chance.berkeley.edu/CouncilOfDeans/indexCOD.htm>.