

Notes
Council of Deans
February 17, 2009

Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost's Remarks (Breslauer)

The group welcomed Deborah Nolan, who is serving this calendar year as Acting Dean of the Mathematical and Physical Sciences Division during Dean Mark Richards's sabbatical.

EVCP Breslauer invited discussion about how to broaden communications with faculty, staff, and students about the campus's ongoing plans for managing the multi-year budget crisis. Among the suggestions was to hold town hall meetings, preferably at the dean's level, with talking points provided by the administration. These meetings could also be videotaped and made available to those unable to attend. Many liked the idea of creating a website and FAQ that could be updated regularly. Consulting with existing campus committees and informal groups, such as the chief administrative officers group, was also suggested. The EVCP also talked about the need to control rumors during the budget process, particularly those related to personnel actions associated with budget cutting. He reminded the deans that he is relying on them to ensure that the budget information that he imparts to them is passed on to their constituents.

Chancellor's Remarks

Chancellor Birgeneau said the proposed federal stimulus package will offer significant funding for research and development infrastructure which will benefit universities.

Academic Affairs and Faculty Welfare Updates (Zedeck)

VP Zedeck asked about faculty reaction to the new Faculty Retirement Planning Program, which was mailed to deans and department chairs on February 9. Some of the deans said there was little interest among their faculty because either the incentives were insufficient or they were reconsidering their retirement plans given the state of the economy.

VP Zedeck asked everyone to send him by March 15 an estimate of how many faculty plan to separate from the University and as a subset, the number of faculty who plan to take advantage of the new Faculty Retirement Planning Program.

Applications for the Hellman Family Faculty Fund are due March 9.

The new Calcierge office has been very busy since it opened in August. A brochure was distributed (<http://calcierge.berkeley.edu/calcierge.pdf/>). A fully developed Calcierge website will become available soon.

The pilot run of the Emergency Backup Care Program will start March 1. All assistant professors will be sent an email by the vendor.

The Early Childhood Education Program (ECEP) has received central campus funding, which will enable the program to maintain its current level of service. A letter to ECEP parents and staff was sent last week.

Federal Stimulus Legislation (Williams/Treadway)

Guests: Linda Williams, Associate Chancellor; Chris Treadway, Executive Director, Government and Community Relations; and David Trinkle, Director, Federal Research Development.

Handout: Opportunities for Campus in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 by David Trinkle, dated February 18, 2009.

Executive Director Treadway and Director Trinkle presented a summary of updates made to the final version of the federal stimulus bill. The updates, which are organized by agency, include the provision that was made to the agency in the stimulus bill, program information, implementation details, and the Berkeley campus units for whom the provision are of most interest. The Government and Community Relations office will update the summary as new information is received from the agencies and with data of interest to campus units. Deans may contact Director Trinkle with questions about particular agencies and funding opportunities.

Public Affairs – An Overview and Discussion of Basic Strategies (Holmes)

Guests: Claire Holmes, Associate Vice Chancellor, Public Affairs-University Communications and Marie Felde, Executive Director, Media Relations

Handout: Media Highlights January 2009

http://newscenter.berkeley.edu/news/in_news/highlights/

AVC Holmes talked briefly about the administration's draft announcement to the campus about Berkeley's plans and policies for managing the budget over the next several years. She described the organizational structure and functional units of the Communications and Public Affairs Office. Executive Director Felde distributed copies of "Media Highlights January 2009," the third in a new monthly compilation of media articles about Berkeley. The compilations are intended as promotional material for use by campus leaders, faculty, and staff. University Communications and Public Affairs also provides courses in how to interact with the media and workshops for writing op-eds. The deans were encouraged to contact Marie Felde about these training sessions.

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