

**Notes
Council of Deans
October 6, 2009**

EVCP's Remarks (Breslauer)

EVCP Breslauer drew attention to his September 24 email to the deans, which announced the passage of the California E-Discovery Act. The law requires that the University's obligations to preserve and produce electronically stored information ("ESI") in state court litigation now parallel its obligations in federal court litigation.

Chancellor's Remarks (Birgeneau)

Chancellor Birgeneau and VC Yeary have an op-ed in the *Washington Post* entitled [Rescuing Our Public Universities](#), in which they propose that the federal government create a federal-state university system of selected public research and teaching universities.

In [Cracks in the Future](#), *New York Time* columnist Bob Herbert uses Berkeley as an example of why Americans should care about the crisis in higher education.

A team led by Professor Tim White's team has discovered the earliest hominid skeleton ever found.

Professors Elizabeth Blackburn and Carol Greider are co-winners of this year's Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine. Most of their research was performed at Berkeley, where Professor Greider was a graduate student for Professor Blackburn.

The Chancellor thanked the deans and chairs for their contributions to last weekend's successful homecoming.

Operational Excellence—Introduction and Discussion (Yeary)

Guests: Bain & Company representatives Paul Davis, Sam Israelit, and Sylvia Dong

On October 1, the campus launched the [Operational Excellence](#) (OE) effort, a six-month fact-based assessment project that will identify opportunities to improve operations and reduce costs. The drivers for initiating OE was this year's \$150M budget deficit and the campus's need to permanently change the way it operates in order to balance the budget on a sustainable basis.

OE effort will be led by Chancellor Birgeneau and Vice Chancellor Yeary, and guided by an OE steering Committee, which will include faculty, staff, and student leaders. An internal working team from departments across the campus is also being developed. The leadership efforts will be supported by an outside consulting firm, Bain & Company. Representatives gave a presentation of the OE assessment process.

AVC Holmes described the publicity for announcing OE. She will send the deans a copy of the OE talking points.

Campaign Update (Blinder)

AVC Blinder said the campus is at the midpoint of the capital campaign, and is on track to reach its \$3B goal by the end of 2012-13. He noted in particular that despite the economic downturn, the campus garnered over \$300M in FY 2008-09. As of the end of September, fifty-seven Hewlett Chairs have been named.

AVC Blinder plans to meet individually with the deans in the coming months to discuss unit goals and progress. He will be discussing with the deans and their development heads how the campus can work collaboratively to reach the many prospects with potential to support the campaign.

Other

VP Zedeck announced that the next deans and chairs luncheon will be about media relations.

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>.