

DISPATCHES FROM THE EVCP Communication at the fore

Welcome to Faculty News, a new publication from the Office of the Executive Vice Chancellor & Provost that will provide commentary on the state of the university, administrative updates, research and teaching resources, and other information for an exclusively faculty audience. This newsletter will appear in print six times each year, and is also available online at evcp.berkeley.edu/faculty-news.

To kick things off, Faculty News spoke with EVCP Claude Steele about his current priorities and why he wanted to establish this newsletter.

FN: What's on your mind these days? What is most central to your work right now as EVCP?

CS: As EVCP, many things are on my mind. Each day can vary from dealing with enrollment pressures, to academic reviews, to personnel issues, to fundraising, to how the budget looks. Right now, that last one is the big daddy of them all.

FN: How does our budget look? How did the deal reached by UC President Napolitano and Governor Brown in May work out for us?



ELENA ZHUKOVA

EVCP Claude Steele

CS: Well, Chancellor Dirks and I expected a tuition increase. The plan that President Napolitano had originally proposed and that the UC Regents approved would have provided predictable changes in tuition and given us more funding and more flexibility. While we still would have had some budget and management challenges, even an incremental increase in what is our largest source of revenue would have helped us reduce our deficit, better sustain all of our existing programs, and strategically invest in new projects.

So without that, we're having to rethink things in a deeper way. Right now the administration is examining how to use resources most effectively so that we can continue to pack Berkeley's one-two punch of academic excellence and broad access. Maintaining that in an environment where resources are constrained is a challenge, but it's one I'm

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Berkeley to host Breakthrough Prize Events

On Nov. 9, leading lights from the fundamental physics, life sciences, and mathematics communities will descend upon Berkeley as we host the Breakthrough Prize symposium. Founded three years ago by Silicon Valley luminaries including Google's Sergey Brin, 23andMe's Anne Wojcicki, and Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg, the Breakthrough Prize honors those at the forefront of physics, life sciences, and mathematics, while also aiming to inspire future innovators in these fields.

The announcement of this year's winners will be followed by a day of academic symposia and panel discussions on and around campus. These will feature prominent speakers in the sciences from Berkeley—as well as from our partners, UCSF and Stanford—and will be moderated by the likes of Yuri Milner, Russian physicist, entrepreneur, and another founder of the Prize.

Events are free, though registration is required and space is limited. For more information, visit breakthroughprize.berkeley.edu.

CAMPUS ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Addressing faculty salary differences

To reduce salary differences among meritorious faculty at similar career stages in the same department, the campus has initiated a new Targeted Decoupling Initiative, which will add a total of nearly \$3 million to our faculty payroll. For more information, visit vpf.berkeley.edu/faculty-salary.

Reexamining custodial service levels

While Facilities Services (FS) recently curtailed levels of campus custodial service in response to a budget reduction, feedback about that decision has prompted reevaluation of the changes. Work is currently underway to determine how best to improve custodial service in a manner that is sustainable given our budget context. The administration recognizes that this issue is critically important to faculty. For more information and service schedules, visit bit.ly/UCBerkeleyCustodial. If you have an urgent need as we work to improve service, please contact the FS Customer Service Center at 642-1032.

UC to assess sexual harassment policies

In the wake of several charges of sexual harassment by a tenured Berkeley faculty member, the UC Office of the President will work with faculty and staff from Berkeley and other campuses to review and revise UC's framework for the investigation and adjudication of sexual violence, assault, and harassment cases involving faculty. A committee tasked with this effort will publish recommendations by the end of Feb. 2016. As a reminder, Berkeley's Office for the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination houses resources and policies regarding sexual harassment. For more information, visit ophd.berkeley.edu.

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From the desk of the EVCP

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confident we can manage.

The larger message of the budget agreement is that we can't administer Berkeley with the expectation that state funding will return to the levels that built, and for a long time sustained, the institution. The state's general allocation is at 13% of our total revenue—way down from the good old days of 60%, or even 40% just a decade ago. While we won't give up our advocacy efforts in Sacramento, the signal here is that we can't count on the state, and have to manage the university with the resources that we have or can generate.

FN: Why is the EVCP office creating this new faculty newsletter?

CS: The administration needs better ways of communicating directly with our faculty, who are at the heart of this institution and who are our partners in governing it. We especially need better ways of communicating as we face the challenges that budgetary stress causes; this was evident, most recently, when the campus implemented changes in custodial service. Such challenges are always helped by better communication, which helps people appreciate the realities of a difficult situation as well as understand the options available to address it. I've been a faculty member and a department chair and an administrator, and traditionally each of those roles has its own purview and access to information. We're trying to open up some of what is too often closed off.

This Nov. 19, 'Think Bigger'

The second annual Big Give—Berkeley's 24-hour, online fundraising event—will take place this Nov. 19. During last year's inaugural Big Give, donors contributed \$5.3 million, in the form of 7,336 gifts, to support a wide range of programs across campus. The tagline of this year's event is "Think Bigger."

According to Harley Shaiken, Chair of the Center for Latin American Studies and a faculty member in the School of Education and Department of Geography, it is easy for faculty to get involved in the Big Give because the online donations platform and communications materials are provided by the university.

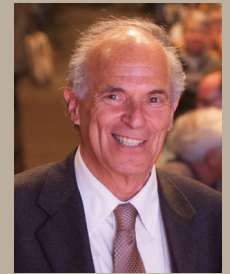
"Faculty can become involved with minimum effort, just forwarding the announcement to friends and broader communities," said Shaiken.

Last year, faculty promoted the event by wearing Big Give buttons, adding Big Give links to their emails, sharing information on social media using the hashtag #CalBigGive, and inspiring students and donors by making a gift—beginning at just \$10—to the program of their choice.

Philanthropy is the university's fastest-growing funding source and one that is critically important to Berkeley. For more information, ask your unit's fundraiser or visit BigGive.berkeley.edu.

Text

"The Big Give produced a surprising number of people who were involved in CLAS' activities and willing to contribute toward them."



—Prof. Harley Shaiken, Chair, Center for Latin American Studies

CAMPUS UPDATES

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Making travel easier

Booking a trip to a conference? Need to get reimbursed for travel expenses? Visit travel.berkeley.edu, a new website serving as a one-stop hub of information related to booking trips, reporting expenses, and understanding policy.

Curious about fund balances?

PI Portfolio provides a quick, comprehensive picture of faculty fund balances, expenses, and budgets for faculty-managed funds and sponsored awards. Early in 2016, the tool, part of Cal Answers, will include the ability to create and review financial projections for research projects. For more information, visit calanswers.berkeley.edu/PIPortfolio.

Supporting faculty data needs

Recognizing the role of data in faculty research across disciplines, this fall the campus launched a new program to support researchers in finding, generating, storing, sharing, and archiving their data. A collaboration between the Library and Research IT, the Research Data Management program offers information and consulting services from Library and IT experts at no cost to campus faculty. In addition, Berkeley faculty are eligible for an allowance of up to 200,000 core hours of computation per academic year on UC Berkeley's new high-performance computing cluster, called "Savio." For more information, visit researchdata.berkeley.edu.

Ask the EVCP:

Are you content with Berkeley's ability to retain its best faculty, and attract new ones?

CS: I think Berkeley's excellent reputation, the quality of current faculty, and the stellar undergraduate and graduate students it attracts—among other assets like its vibrant arts and dining scene and perhaps the best climate in the country—make our university singularly attractive to faculty around the world. Berkeley's applicant pools are large and strong, and we continue to enjoy high rates of acceptance for our offers. For appointments effective July 1 or later, we have 70 accep-

tances and only 12 declinations, with 12 offers outstanding. This acceptance rate of 85% is in line with our strong track record over the past five years. Regarding retention, it isn't surprising that other universities want to hire our top faculty—and we do see around 30 to 40 retention cases each year—but we also continue to retain faculty very successfully, with 80% to 90% of these colleagues deciding to stay here. Among those who do leave, family reasons are the most common.

Each issue, EVCP Steele will respond to a faculty-submitted question. To pose a question, email it to facultynews@berkeley.edu.