BSA Governing Council Elections
The election for BSA’s Governing Council was held in April. Ten staff were nominated to fill seven vacancies. All staff were invited to vote and 274 ballots were cast. New members are: Casey Hennig, David Scarbeary-Simmons, Maria Kies, Suresh Bhat, Montie Magree, and Susie Hill. Current council member Kathleen Valerio was re-elected to another term.

Elections for the executive board are expected to take place in May.

BSA Programs and Events
The Excellence in Management award ceremony was held on April 28. This year’s theme was Equity and Inclusion that Works. 25 supervisors nominated by their direct reports were selected for this award.

Chancellor’s Breakfast
The Council of Staff Organizations’ breakfast with Chancellor Dirks took place on April 29. BSA, the CUCSA delegates, affinity-based staff organizations, communities of practice, and ABOG were invited to send a representative and 18 staff members participated. This annual event is an opportunity to discuss issues of concern for staff directly with the Chancellor. Topics discussed with the Chancellor and his Chief of Staff included campus climate (communications, transparency, and staff morale); leadership strategy; and succession planning and equity.

Employment Application Process Change
Effective May 1, 2016, the Berkeley campus will no longer include a section requesting information on prior convictions in our online application. The change was led by students who are members of the Berkeley Underground Scholars Initiative (http://www.undergroundscholars.org), a student group that “supports all current and prospective students impacted by mass incarceration, imprisonment, and involuntary detainment of any kind.” It was determined that placing this question at the beginning of the application process was acting as a deterrent to qualified candidates.

Campus Strategic Planning Update
The Office of Strategic Initiatives formed in February 2016 to coordinate the campus’ strategic planning efforts related to the eliminating the structural deficit has been dissolved. In his year-end update, the Chancellor stated administration will “ensure there are ample opportunities for broad staff . . . engagement with and participation in the process.”

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