



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUE

February 22, 2012

Electronic Town Hall: Our electronic town hall is now open with the first set of questions! Please visit: <http://connectu.unm.edu> to engage in our discussions about the ongoing academic plan.

Resource Allocation: The most basic congestion control algorithm on the Internet is called Additive Increase Multiplicative Decrease (AIMD). It is a distributed resource allocation algorithm that ends up optimizing a finite resource without the need of a central supervisor, and I believe it to be a good representation of how various parts of the university function together. The algorithm, (with apologies to my computer science and computer engineering colleagues for the oversimplification), allows computers to increase their share of the bandwidth slowly (additively) as long as they can. In other words, every computer tries to send more and more packets for as long as they are allowed to. At some point however, the network can no longer pass the amount of traffic and forces a computer to severely cut its rate. This turns out to be an efficient way of probing the network, and to use as much of the available resource, not unlike the various groups and units at the university who try to maximize their own resources by requesting more and more until they are directed to stop (or cut) because of limited resources. It turns out that under such a scheme, a social good is achieved even though each unit is only focused on its own interest!

UNM Comparison: As we attempt to get a better picture of the cost of higher education, Dr. Terry Babbitt was tasked with the job of getting an accurate picture of UNM's cost and to answer some general questions that may be posed by parents, students, and college boards. Here are some highlights: 78% of our undergraduate students receive grant aid while the remaining 22% are paying the total cost. The tuition of UNM's competing institutions is as follows: Arizona State (\$9,720), Univ. of Ariz. (\$9,286), Colorado State (\$7,952), Texas Tech (\$7,380), NMSU (\$5,825), UNM (\$5,809). For every 1% tuition increase (that is around \$50/student/year), \$1,100,000 in gross revenue is generated but because of the 30% cumulative effect of the tuition credit UNM nets \$750,000, which corresponds to about 8 tenure-track faculty salaries.

On Undergraduate Education: I went to listen to the talk by Dr. Noah Finkelstein at the 7th Annual Success in the Classroom, which took place at the SUB on Wednesday, February 15. The luncheon keynote by Dr. Finkelstein was very informative and proposed novel ideas on how to educate science teachers and professors. For more information please visit: <http://spot.colorado.edu/~finkelsn/>.

Career Advice: In a recent Forbes article, all job-interviewing questions are distilled to the following three categories: 1) Can you do the job (skills & strengths)? 2) Will you love the job (passion & motivation)? and, 3) Can we tolerate working with you (culture & fit)? The original article is found at: <http://www.forbes.com/sites/georgebradt/2011/04/27/top-executive-recruiters-agree-there-are-only-three-key-job-interview-questions/>.

UNM Graduate Student Fund - United Way: The Graduate Scholarship Fund was set up through the UNM Foundation to help support the education of our UNM graduate students. For background information see: <http://chronicle.com/article/Graduate-Student-Debt-Matters/129812/>. GPSA, in collaboration with the Faculty Senate, established the fund to provide financial assistance for graduate and professional students in completing their degrees. You can contribute to the fund following the instructions here: <http://www.unm.edu/~gpsa/GPSA/GIVING.html>.

Course Materials for Summer and Fall 2012: The deadlines to submit your course material requirements, as specified by the HEOA is upon us:

<http://bookstore.unm.edu/images/document/pdf/HigherEducationOppAct2009.pdf>.

The deadlines are March 15th for the summer semester and April 1st for the fall semester. By adhering to these deadlines you help play an important role in **lowering costs for our** students. The bookstore can pay the most for textbooks during buyback and by procuring more used books. This also allows the bookstore team time to work with faculty on options such as customization, packages and e-books. Let's all work together to help our students be successful and save money too! To place your order on-line go to: http://bookstore.unm.edu/t-1UNM_faculty.aspx.

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at: provost@unm.edu or at the electronic town hall: xxxxx.

Sincerely, Chaouki Abdallah,

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs