



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

November 30, 2011

UNM Legislative Priorities: The UNM Office of Government & Community Relations represents the interests of the University of New Mexico by serving as the University's lead advocate with elected and appointed officials, their staffs and government bodies. Every year, the office works closely with the various UNM entities, including the Academic Affairs office to prioritize and advocate for UNM at the State level. This includes special capital projects to be funded by the general obligation (GO) bonds as well as other priorities such as the elimination of the tuition tax, and Educational Retirement ERB restoration. For more information on UNM 2011's priorities, please check:

<http://govrel.unm.edu/legislative-sessions/2011/index.html>.

The World Keeps Getting Smaller: Many of us are by now familiar with the six-degree of separation argument in its various forms (Kevin Bacon game, Erdős number, etc). The following is taken from Facebook page titled "Anatomy of Facebook." "A recent study examined 721 million active Facebook users (more than 10% of the global population), with 69 billion friendship links among them. The study found that the distribution of friends differs significantly from previous studies of large-scale social networks. The authors also found that the degrees of separation between any two Facebook users is smaller (4.74) than the commonly cited six degrees, and has been shrinking over the past three years as Facebook has grown. They also observed that while the entire world is only a few degrees away, a user's friends are most likely to be of a similar age and come from the same country." The article citing the study as well as the two technical papers are found at:

<http://www.facebook.com/notes/facebook-data-team/anatomy-of-facebook/10150388519243859>.

The Provost's Diversity Council is formulating UNM's Diversity Plan for the next ten years! In support of this effort, the Division for Equity and Inclusion will be hosting the "Imagine UNM" forum. The interactive forum seeks input from faculty, staff, students, and community members that will illustrate what UNM would look and feel like if diversity and excellence were fully integrated. Please join the Division for Equity and Inclusion for this important dialogue on Wednesday, December 7, 2011, 3pm-5pm in SUB Ballroom C. It is critical that we hear your voice and learn about your vision for UNM. For additional information on Imagine UNM visit <http://diverse.unm.edu/imagineunm>.

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>.

Your feedback and input is welcome at: provost@unm.edu.

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah

Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs