



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

May 14, 2014

President Popejoy's Speech: On July 15, 1962, UNM President Tom L. Popejoy [gave a speech](#) at the State Convention of the American Legion. Almost two years ago, I recalled the speech in one of my communiqués. In light of recent political events, it seems a good time for all of us to re-read a speech that still resonates today. We all need to be reminded that higher education is as critical today as ever, and those who try to either limit the role of the university or stretch it beyond its intent, risk undermining the university's mission as a bastion for inquiry, scholarship, and learning. We all lose, as individuals and as a society. I am also reminded here of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) statement on academic freedom, the indispensable quality of institutions of higher education. As the AAUP's core policy statement argues, "institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of either the individual teacher or the institution as a whole. The common good depends upon the free search for truth and its free exposition." The 1940 [Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure](#) has been endorsed by [more than 200 national scholarly and educational associations](#). The *Statement of Principles* affirms that: "1) Teachers are entitled to full freedom in research and in the publication of the results, subject to the adequate performance of their other academic duties; but research for pecuniary return should be based upon an understanding with the authorities of the institution. 2) Teachers are entitled to freedom in the classroom in discussing their subject, but they should be careful not to introduce into their teaching controversial matter which has no relation to their subject. Limitations of academic freedom because of religious or other aims of the institution should be clearly stated in writing at the time of the appointment. 3) College and university teachers are citizens, members of a learned profession, and officers of an educational institution. When they speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship or discipline, but their special position in the community imposes special obligations. As scholars and educational officers, they should remember that the public may judge their profession and their institution by their utterances. Hence they should at all times be accurate, should exercise appropriate restraint, should show respect for the opinions of others, and should make every effort to indicate that they are not speaking for the institution." We all benefit from faculty who enjoy their rights to academic freedom.

Finals & Commencement: The final exams for the Spring 2014 Semester must be scheduled between May 12 and May 16, 2014. The Graduate Commencement will take place on Friday, May 16 at 6:00 p.m. in the Johnson Center, with a [keynote address](#) by David Allen Hovda. The Undergraduate Commencement will be held on Saturday, May 17 at 9:00 a.m., in the University Arena ("The Pit"), with [keynote speaker](#) Lameck "Humble" Lukanga.

Summer Opportunities at UNM: To current UNM students and those who advise them, I encourage you to think about enrolling in one of the close to 2,000 classes available this summer. Students who take even one summer semester class can double their likelihood of graduating on time (within 6 years) – that is twice the rate of those who do not. For UNM students who are eligible to complete their degrees in the summer, UNM will cover your tuition – finishing sooner will cost you less. For our other students, in-state tuition is available for all summer classes. While the New Mexico Lottery Scholarship is not applicable to summer semester tuition, there are several scholarship and financial aid options available. I encourage you to explore summer.unm.edu to find out how UNM can help you sustain your momentum toward graduation.

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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: <http://connectu.unm.edu/>. Please also see the Provost's Blog at <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>.