



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Office of the Provost



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUE

July 27, 2011

So, what does the Academic Affairs organization do? In the next few weeks, I will try to explain some of our units, projects, and activities. One highly effective unit is the [Office of the University Secretary](#), which provides the backbone for faculty governance. The Office is also responsible for freshman convocation and inaugural ceremonies, the coordination of university annual reports, and the honorary degree nomination process. The office is currently headed by Ms. Vivian Valencia and is supported by a staff of three. It has been one of the most stable and effective offices on campus and continues to provide excellent service to the University community with minimal fanfare.

I mentioned in the July 20, 2011 communiqué, my intentions to initiate an academic strategic plan. Such a plan will drive our resource decisions as well as greatly influence the consolidated [master plan](#) that sets the framework for the physical growth of UNM. You will hear more about this effort as I begin to assemble an academic planning team. If you are interested in seeing what your university may look like in the next 10 years on a conceptual level, take a look at the site linked above and send your comments to planning@unm.edu.

The more I learn about the breadth of activities on campus, the more I discover how many untapped resources we have. Here is an example: did you know that you have at your fingertip more than 300 monographs that you can access for free from your library? Just point your browser from a UNM computer to www.morganclaypool.com and you will find an array of (mainly science and engineering) PDF books that your library has licensed for all UNM students, faculty, and staff. Another inspiring activity is the [Arts in Medicine](#) program, a collaborative effort between the College of Fine Arts and the Health Sciences Center among others.

There are a number of leadership changes underway within Academic Affairs. Among the deans, changes include the appointment of Mark Peceny as Interim Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and, after 5 years of distinguished service as Dean of the Office of Graduate Studies (OGS), Dr. Amy Wohlert will be stepping down. Dr. Gary Harrison will assume the position of Interim Dean of OGS. Additionally, in the upcoming academic year, the University will be searching for a new dean for the College of Fine Arts to succeed Dr. Jim Linnell. Within the Provost's office, I am pleased to report that Dr. Jane Slaughter has accepted the position of Associate Provost for Academic Personnel, and Dr. Greg Heileman has accepted the role of Associate Provost for Curriculum. Both are accomplished and passionate faculty members (Dr. Slaughter has recently retired but agreed to continue helping UNM!) and will be serving in their new roles on a part-time basis while continuing with their academic duties.

In the next few weeks, I will be reporting on few ongoing projects, such as automating faculty workload, implementing the Net Price Calculator for incoming students, as well as our intentions to roll out an Institutional Research database that will allow access to key data for the campus community in an easy and transparent form.

The next story highlights the role of two of our UNM graduates and is courtesy of EMCORE Corporation. EMCORE's Albuquerque-manufactured solar cells were launched into space aboard the last NASA Space Shuttle Mission. The solar cells are believed by NASA to be the highest efficiency solar

cells ever sent into space. Ben Cho and Pravin Patel are the UNM graduates who worked on the team that made the cells and assemblies ready for the final shuttle flight. Congratulations to them for contributing to this important mission.

Finally, I would like to hear your feedback on one good process at UNM (for example, obtaining a parking permit) as well as one process that you would like to be improved (and practical suggestions for changing it). The rule is that you get one complaint for every positive comment AND you need to propose solutions! Please send your comments to provost@unm.edu.

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah
Interim Provost & Executive Vice President