

The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

September 14, 2017

Hello Everyone! I hope you have had a good week. As I write this message, I am on my back from a visit to China. My good friend Professor Robert Luo, from the Anderson School of Management, and I visited the Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai (BITZ) in Zhuhai and Soochow University in Suzhou.

The primary reason for our trip was the High Table Welcoming Ceremony for the freshmen entering the BITZ/UNM educational cohort. The entering group has 110 students. These students join last year's initial cohort of 76 students. The two groups will be studying undergraduate management at BITZ their freshmen through junior years. The curriculum is taught entirely in English with an annual four-week summer program at UNM. The students will attend UNM full-time beginning their senior year and continuing through the completion of their graduate work. We also visited Soochow University to discuss the potential to collaborate with them on international management programs, online course delivery, and student cohorts.



Zhuhai is a part of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region of southern China. As of 2013, the PRD has a population of approximately 57 million and a GDP of \$1.2 trillion. Suzhou is part of the greater Shanghai area. The city has a population of 10.6 million and a GDP of \$233 billion. Each of these areas is an incredibly dynamic component of the Chinese and global economy. My hope is that UNM can grow its ties in these areas to help bring our students and the State opportunities to participate in this ever more interconnected world.

El Centro de la Raza

The national story around possible replacement for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program has been difficult to follow in recent days, with reports two days ago about the beginnings of a deal between President Trump and Democratic Congressional leaders followed by more reports yesterday denying any deal. These political vacillations highlight the importance of the local work being done to support undocumented immigrants in our community.



UNM faculty and staff members have been working diligently on these issues for months. A [new article](#) in the Chronicle of Higher Education recognized the efforts of student-programs specialist Armando Bustamante and the rest of the team at El Centro de la Raza. The recent “Know Your Rights” training was developed and organized by El Centro staff. Given the increased attendance over the past several months, the training had to be relocated to the larger Rodey Theater. El Centro staff also work with individual undocumented students to review options for staying and succeeding in college. We hope for a favorable legislative outcome to protect and resolve the uncertainty for our students. In the meantime, we are grateful for the efforts of Armando and his colleagues.

Campus Safety Walk

This year’s Campus Safety Walk will begin next Tuesday, September 19, at 7:45 p.m. (ending at 8:45 p.m.) in SUB Ballroom B. The Campus Safety Walk invites participants to identify safety issues around campus during the nighttime walk around campus. This is one way you can help make UNM’s campus safer for everyone.

Scopus vs. Web of Science

The University Libraries and the Health Sciences Library are conducting their [second trial of Scopus](#), an alternative to the Web of Science databases. Changing to Scopus has the potential for significant savings for the libraries and could minimize the reductions and cancellations otherwise anticipated to books and journals. Information about the trial was emailed to all faculty on September 1, and is also posted on the libraries’ websites. Be sure to let the libraries know what you think of the alternative so they can make the best decision for the university. More information can be found [here](#).

Religious Observances 2017-18

The variety of religious customs and practices comprises another important aspect of the diversity of our campus. An updated list of [religious observances](#) has been released for the 2017-18 academic year. Please take these days into consideration when planning meetings and events. Reasonable requests may also include observances that are not listed on the calendar. The timing for some Tribal observances, for example, depends on natural occurrences. Accommodation of religious observance is codified in UNM policy 2720: Equal Opportunity, Non-Discrimination, and Affirmative Action, which prohibits religious discrimination and requires reasonable accommodation of employees’ and students’ sincerely held religious beliefs. Please contact the [Office of Equal Opportunity](#) (277-5251) for more information

UNM Entrepreneurs - Upcoming Speakers

The UNM entrepreneurs group is [hosting two high-profile speakers](#) on campus this October: Drew Tulchin, Chief Financial Officer of Meow Wolf (Oct. 5); and Gary Oppedahl, director of Economic Development for the City of Albuquerque (Oct. 26). These events are sponsored by the UNM entrepreneurs group, in collaboration with UNM Innovation Academy and the UNM Business Plan Competition. For more information, visit the [UNM Newsroom article](#), or email [Gabriel Baduqui](mailto:Gabriel.Baduqui).

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A PDF version of this weekly brief is available on the [Academic Affairs website](#). Your feedback and input are welcome at provost@unm.edu.