



## *WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ*

July 20, 2011

Since officially assuming the responsibilities as Provost on July 1, 2011, my first order of business was to evaluate and re-organize the Office of the Provost into a more coherent and responsive organization. In order to do so, I conducted extensive research by interviewing multiple UNM constituents, looking at historical organizational charts by previous UNM provosts, having multiple conversations with other university provosts and visiting Arizona State University. Based on my own assessment and feedback of multiple constituencies, I am releasing a new organizational structure for the UNM Office of the Provost (attached). You'll see that the primary change in organization has to do with leadership within the Office. This structure suggests one Senior Vice Provost (Dr. Mike Dougher) with three Associate Provosts reporting to him to oversee the academic personnel, curriculum and international areas of responsibility. The concept is to hire faculty members (on a part-time and rotational basis) to lead these areas. The most significant change in this reorganization from a faculty perspective is the responsibility for oversight of promotion and tenure (P&T) evaluation at the Provost's level. I am proposing the implementation of a campus-wide P&T faculty committee appointed by the Provost that spreads the responsibility and objectivity of the process over a ten to twelve person committee which is a common model at other research institutions. I will be working with the Deans and the Faculty Senate to discuss implementation and assemble the 2011-2012 P&T Committee. Additionally, strategic curriculum management has been moved to Extended University and many of the business units have been moved under the AVP for Academic Administration (former AVP for Planning, Budget & Analysis). I will have more information about these units and their activities in future communiqués. Also, stay tuned later this week for the Provost office to roll out a new website. By Friday, July 22 you will be able to access this new site at <http://provost.unm.edu>.

Important to any new organization is a strategic plan that will guide our decisions. Beginning in August, we will initiate a process for developing an academic strategic plan for the main campus that will inform the faculty hiring, financial and campus development strategic plans for the institution. As part of the academic plan, I will be working with the Deans and Chairs to propose a faculty retention and hiring plan to grow the faculty ranks by at least 200 positions in the next decade. The plan will address growth in students, support staff and facilities.

I am pleased to report that in collaboration with Information Technology (IT), various academic units, and the Provost and VPR offices, an agreement has been made to have Matlab (and around 50 toolboxes) available for download to all UNM-affiliated faculty members and students on August 1, 2011. Matlab is a software that was started at UNM by Dr. [Cleve Moler](#) who was first on the Mathematics faculty before joining our young Computer Science department. Matlab is widely used in Academia and industry but was only available to the UNM community using a complicated licensing system that limited its usage.

On a personal note, when I am caught up with daily chores and for some personal relief, I try to make time for the site [www.edge.org](http://www.edge.org). I also like watching Ted talks ([www.ted.org](http://www.ted.org)). One of the recent postings is "[how to tie your shoes.](#)" I hope you and your family will find it as intriguing as my kids did!

As always, please free to provide feedback to me on this communiqué or other matters by sending e-mail to [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chaouki Abdallah".

Chaouki Abdallah  
Interim Provost & Executive Vice President

**Robert Wood Johnson  
Center for Health Policy**  
*Robert Valdez*

**Interim Provost & EVP for Academic Affairs**  
**Chaouki Abdallah**

**Office of University  
Secretary**  
*Vivian Valencia*

**Deans**

ASM  
Douglas Brown

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Mark Peceny

Continuing Education  
Rita Martinez-Purson

College of Education  
Richard Howell

Engineering  
Catalin Roman

Fine Arts  
James Linnell

Graduate Studies  
Amy Wohlert

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Kevin Washburn

Public Administration  
Uday Desai

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Martha Bedard

Arch & Planning  
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Branch Campus  
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(Gallup, Los Alamos, Taos,  
Valencia)

**AVP for Enrollment  
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*Terry Babbitt*

**AVP for Academic  
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**Vice President for  
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