



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

March 26, 2014

For every complex problem there is an answer that is clear, simple, and wrong.

—H.L. Mencken.

The Kalven Report: In February 1967, President Beadle of the University of Chicago convened a committee headed by Professor Harry Kalven Jr. and requested that they prepare “a statement on the University’s role in political and social action.” The [report](#) states at one point that a university “cannot insist that all of its members favor a given view of social policy; if it takes collective action, therefore, it does so at the price of censuring any minority who do not agree with the view adopted. In brief, it is a community which cannot resort to majority vote to reach positions on public issues.” The report has been [hotly debated](#) within the University of Chicago and outside.

Hidden Influencers: One of the challenges of communicating information, as well as decisions, to the various constituencies at UNM is the fact that we are inundated with so many e-mails. While our emails may reach many inboxes, our messages reach very few. Moreover, “employee resistance is the most common reason executives cite for the failure of big organizational-change efforts. Winning over skeptical employees and convincing them of the need to change just isn’t possible through mass e-mails, PowerPoint presentations, or impassioned CEO mandates. Rather, companies need to develop strong change leaders [who] employees know and respect — in other words, people with informal influence.” In a [similar approach](#) to that adopted for immunizations, “snowball sampling” is used to identify the [hidden influencers](#) to help propagate information and to explain new initiatives.

Faculty Bark; The Provost Bites: is the title of a chapter in the book “Provost: Experiences, Reflections, and Advice from a Former “Number Two” on Campus,” by Larry A. Nielsen. The chapter is replicated in the blog [Tomorrow’s Professor](#) and will make for a very lively read.

Office of the IRB Update: The [Office of Institutional Review Board](#) (OIRB) has implemented a new submission system, [IRBNet](#), to provide on-demand status updates, easy access to IRB documents, and other benefits. Going forward, please remember that all IRB actions performed by Main and Branch Campus investigators (new projects, amendments, continuing review, closures, and event reporting) must be submitted to the OIRB via [IRBNet](#) at www.irbnet.org.

Honors College Ribbon Cutting: The Honors College is celebrating a year of successful transition (it was previously the Honors Program) with a [Ribbon Cutting Ceremony](#) on Friday, April 4, beginning at 1:30 p.m. The establishment of the Honors College, under the guidance of Dean Kate Krause, is a momentous achievement for UNM. It has benefitted from a collective effort by faculty, students, and staff, an effort which began under President Schmidly and continued with the strong support of President Frank. Please join us at the celebration.

New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange: The deadline to sign up for health insurance through the New Mexico Health Insurance Exchange (NMHIX) ends on March 31. You can find information on the [Student Health & Counseling website](#), and assistance is available during “[Get Covered Fridays](#).”

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