



THE UNIVERSITY of  
NEW MEXICO

Office of the Provost



### WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

May 11, 2016

*A thousand yes-men cannot equal one honest advisor.*

—Zhao Liang

**Feedback & Reviews:** As I keep stating in this Communiqué, I am a great believer in feedback. All faculty members had an opportunity recently to give their feedback on my performance this past year. They also evaluated some of the vice provosts and vice presidents who report to me, as well as their academic deans. Many of you have inquired how such surveys are being used and who gets to see the results. My evaluation is provided to the president, who uses it as part of my annual performance review. **I have requested from the Faculty Senate and the University Secretary to post my own review at:** [http://facgov.unm.edu/Provost\\_Eval\\_SummaryReport.pdf](http://facgov.unm.edu/Provost_Eval_SummaryReport.pdf) (if the PDF does not display in your browser, download it and view with a PDF application, such as Adobe Acrobat Reader). The link does not include the written comments, but I will be responding to some of them in future Communiqués. All other evaluations were provided to me and will be provided to the evaluated individuals. I also use the evaluations as part of annual performance reviews in order to help improve the performance of all involved. Some deans have already taken steps to distribute their evaluations to their constituents and have begun to respond to their feedback. It has and will always be my intent to use this instrument to collect information about how well we are performing our duties, *and* to make corrections where needed. I firmly believe that we learn more from honest negative feedback than we do from positive feedback!

**What Future?** At the end of another academic year, the last thing on my mind may be to take stock of the past year, and to prepare for the next one. And if you are like me, you are probably counting the hours to take a well-deserved break before the summer activities start. This is also a presidential election year, and many social forces are at work within our society and on our campuses. I hope that you will be blessed with the gift of time and slowness to be able to reflect on how we can nudge the future of UNM and of our city, state, country, and world in a positive direction. At a time when campus and national conversations are delving into painful pasts and uncertain futures, I hope that we will remember James Baldwin's words: "We've got to be as clear-headed about human beings as possible, because we are still each other's only hope." Finally, I am reminded of the futility of trying to [predict the long-term future](#) by the now comical, but at the time trusted, predictions on [electric streetlights](#).

**Finals, Graduation, and Commencement (once more):** This week is our final exam week for the Spring 2016 semester. Please make sure to adhere to the [Final Examination schedule and policies](#). Also, please note: "Per the Faculty Handbook, Section D125: Faculty grades are expected to be entered and submitted using Web Grades within 48 hours after the final exam. Law School grades are due 30 calendar days from either the paper due date or the date the examinations are delivered to the faculty member, whichever is later. The law clinic grades are due one business day before the first day of the following semester." I also take this opportunity to encourage faculty to attend their college or school convocation, the Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony (Saturday, May 14 at 9 a.m. at WisePies Arena, a.k.a. The Pit) and the Graduate Commencement Ceremony (Friday, May 13 at 6 p.m. at WisePies Arena).

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

A PDF version of this Communiqué is available on the [Academic Affairs website](#). Your feedback and input are welcome at [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu). Please also see the [Provost's Blog](#).