

# The Academic Affairs Weekly Brief

**January 19, 2018**

Greetings amid the fast-moving start to the spring semester. These weekly briefs serve to provide quick information and insight on what's happening in academic affairs (and related dynamics). In addition, please watch for a longer communiqué from me next week, regarding how we in academic affairs are thinking about the strategic direction of the academic mission in this time of transition.

- Richard Wood, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

## **2018 New Mexico Legislative Session**

The 2018 New Mexico Legislative Session is set to begin in Santa Fe, and after years of cuts the budget projections are cautiously optimistic. Though projections for new revenue for the State have improved significantly, so far the recommendations for higher education's I&G (instruction and general) funding are relatively flat. That picture is still developing, so the recommendations may improve over the course of the legislative session. However, we know for sure that regardless of what happens in the Legislature, UNM's budget for next academic year has to absorb budget cuts of recent years that were addressed using one-time funds. So it will be a hard budget year in any case, but hopefully better than we feared. Good news comes from the recommended pay hikes found in both the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) and the Executive budgets released earlier this month. The LFC recommends a 1.5 percent compensation increase along with a 4 percent redistribution of funds under the performance-based funding formula. The Executive recommends a 1 percent compensation increase with a 6.5 percent redistribution of the funding formula.

If you would like to track the session, or UNM-related bills, the UNM Government Relations office has several ways for you to follow along. On the [Government Relations webpage](#) you can [sign up](#) for their informative updates, or check out the [2018 Legislative Bill Tracker](#).

## **Preparing for Difficult Classroom Topics**

The Center for Teaching and Learning has organized a series of important workshops for UNM instructors during the spring semester. The workshops are organized around topics that are at the center of UNM's academic mission, especially around inclusive excellence. For example, CTL has organized workshops on inclusive course design, teaching across cultures, and how instructors can support DACA students. In addition, CTL has developed workshops on matters related to how to teach in times of political and social conflict and how to teach in classroom settings in which students have mental health problems. To take full advantage of all that CTL offers, please see the [spring workshop schedule](#).

### **International Agreements Webpage**

Check out the new [International Agreement webpage](#). If you are thinking about or engaged in international work with an institutional dimension, this page provides procedural information, policy guidelines, and campus resources. The Global Education Office (GEO) facilitates the process for developing, revising, or renewing international Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with institutions in other countries. GEO collaborates closely with faculty and units who want to pursue an international collaboration, and it processes all new main campus international agreements, including contract review and signature-routing. GEO can also facilitate agreements focused on international education initiatives with higher education partners in New Mexico or other states.

For general inquiries, or assistance with initiating an international agreement, please email [intlagreements@unm.edu](mailto:intlagreements@unm.edu). For international agreements related to healthcare, please contact Cristina Beato, M.D., at the UNM Health Sciences Center ([cbeato@salud.unm.edu](mailto:cbeato@salud.unm.edu)).

### **A Year of China**

A new exhibit, "A Year of China," opened on Wednesday and runs through February 6, and is being held on the third floor of Ortega Hall, highlights Chinese festivals, culture and art. The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures is hosting the exhibit, in collaboration with Tower Bridge International Education, as part of its mission to serve as a portal to world cultures for the UNM community.

### **Research Allocations: Call for Proposals**

The Research Allocations Committee is inviting UNM voting faculty to submit proposals for internal funding. The submission guidelines are available at the [Research Allocations Committee website](#), and proposals must be submitted online from February 1-15. The funding is not to exceed \$10,000 per proposal, with proposal duration of 18 months from the receipt of funds.

### **New Appointments in Academic Affairs**

Rob DelCampo has been appointed Interim Dean of University College for this year. Sonia Gipson Rankin has been appointed Director of First Year Success Projects, coordinating our important ongoing work to support the success of our entering students amid the challenges of higher education. As mentioned last week, Monica Kowal has been appointed Director of Community Engagement Initiatives, coordinating the remarkably rich and extensive work all over the University in research, teaching, and service that engages New Mexico and wider communities—work that is currently fragmented and often almost invisible to the wider public. Please welcome them.

### **Lecture by Rolling Stone Writer**

Next Wednesday (Jan. 24), the political and cultural reporter Matt Taibbi will be on campus to give a public talk titled, "The Problems of Reporting in the Internet Age (and How to Counter Them)," at 5:30 p.m. in the Kiva Auditorium (the round building

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near Zimmerman Library and Mesa Vista Hall). Taibbi has been a reporter since the mid-1990s and is the acclaimed author of many books on political, social, and economic issues.

### **From the faculty and staff team in the Office of the Provost/Academic Affairs**

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