



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUE

August 17, 2011

Greetings from Istanbul!

As you read this, I am in the beautiful city of Istanbul, Turkey. I am attending a conference where Dr. Carl Baum is being honored after passing away last year. Dr. Baum joined the UNM Electrical & Computer Engineering Department in August 2005 after a career with the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL) at Kirtland Air Force Base. After a long career of distinguished service, he became affiliated with UNM and gave a lot in terms of intellectual and financial support to our graduate students and to the University. Carl lived a simple life and did not draw a UNM salary. Instead he used much of his compensation to support graduate students at UNM and elsewhere. On behalf of the University, I want to express my eternal gratitude for Dr. Carl Baum's contributions to our academic mission. His contributions have the long-term effect of influencing our academic research and programming with AFRL and Sandia National Laboratories.

Extended University (EU) is the UNM unit that is responsible for delivering education to students who choose an on-line format and/or are not able to participate in face-to-face lectures. Most courses through EU are delivered on-line and some are delivered using instructional television. I am happy to announce that, while UNM student credit hours are growing by around 3% a year, EU headcount has grown by more than 50% per year. As we plan for additional growth, EU is a key component in attracting out-of-state and non-traditional students without stressing the physical infrastructure of our campus and its surroundings. One of our future strategic growth strategies will involve Extended University and Dr. Jerry Dominguez who leads EU operations. More information about EU and their enrollment strategies may be found at: <http://eu.unm.edu/>.

UNM Enrollment: In the last decade, the UNM student body grew by approximately 20% while the tenure and tenure-track faculty grew by approximately 1.4%. Projecting forward to 2021, UNM is expected to serve about 35,000 students which means we need to immediately identify solutions for adding additional faculty, part-time instruction and staff resources that will be needed to meet this demand. Based on our current trends, many more students will take their courses online, and a larger proportion will be graduate and professional students. You'll hear more from me on this in future communiques.

What does a UNM professor do? During an academic semester, a professor spends time preparing lecture notes, meeting with graduate students, delivering lectures, and then answering student questions during office hours. They may go to the laboratory or studio to check on an experiment or to catch a student's practice. A medical professor may spend time in the operating room, instructing residents, or checking on patients while a Music professor may have a performance. Then, they may attend a departmental meeting or a PhD defense, spend time reviewing scholarly manuscripts, correcting a student thesis draft, writing a journal paper or working on a textbook. Finally, many professors volunteer their time to recruit high schools students for UNM, before going home to grade work and answer e-mail

questions from students. So, when your professor is not delivering a lecture, they are probably preparing one, conducting research, or providing service to their department or professional society. It is exactly those hidden activities that make a UNM professor a professor!

While traveling, I like to read non-technical books. During my current trip, I am reading the book: The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right by Atul Gawande. Many of you are probably aware of this 2010 book, and I am finding it a very enjoyable read.

A PDF version of this communique is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>

Sincerely,

Chaouki Abdallah
Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs