



## WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

June 19, 2013

**AAUP on MOOCs:** And now, for the other side of the argument (if you missed last week's Communiqué, you can [find it here](#)). Are Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) threatening the intellectual property of our faculty? That is certainly [the opinion of a former president of the American Association of University Professors \(AAUP\)](#). In fact, the "AAUP plans this year to undertake a campaign to urge professors to get protections of their intellectual-property rights included in their contracts and faculty handbooks, (the ex-president) Mr. Nelson said. As part of that effort, the group plans to create a Web site with resources dealing with intellectual property and to devise letters about its concerns tailored for specific academic disciplines." This issue seems to me a very critical one to resolve as soon as possible here at UNM.

**IT Audit:** During the Spring 2013 semester, UNM's Internal Audit conducted a questionnaire with all UNM campuses to inform an audit on the practice of protecting sensitive data. All Departments, the Health Sciences Center, branch campuses, as well as Information Technologies, were invited to complete the survey. The audit was requested by our Board of Regents to inform them on how we protect student, financial, and personal data. UNM policies for managing information, handling credit card numbers, and student, copyright, and personal information [can be found mainly here](#). During the Summer 2013 semester, Internal Audit will select a small number of departments and units to review security, documentation, and processes on IT systems (i.e., servers, backups, etc.) that the institution, and maybe your research, relies upon.

**Accreditation:** Taken from <http://accreditation.unm.edu>: "The University of New Mexico has been continuously accredited through the Higher Learning Commission of (HLC) the North Central Association since 1922. The HLC accreditation covers all of UNM's campuses and programs. The institution's last comprehensive accreditation review occurred in April 2009, resulting in a full 10 year reaffirmation of accreditation. Additionally, many of UNM's programs carry specialized accreditations (see list of [UNM's Program Accreditations](#))." Not only does accreditation of the university provide a quality check and regulatory oversight, but accrediting organizations have also been serving as "gatekeepers for federal student aid." These dual roles are now being [examined by congress](#). Moreover, accrediting organizations have begun discussing how to handle MOOCs, as described by [the president of the Council of Higher Education Accreditation](#).

**E-mail Drone Strikes:** I have always felt that e-mail is a poor medium to negotiate or resolve conflicts. A recent podcast reference in [the recent Chronicle of Higher Education article](#) used the term "e-mail drone strikes" to describe e-mail messages that zing and hurt but do not solve the issue at hand. The solution? Pick up the phone or meet in person.

**How Do You Know?** At a recent visit to [the Santa Fe Institute](#), its president (and a former UNM faculty member and chair), Dr. Jerry Sabloff, called my attention to a course taught at the University of Pennsylvania for all incoming freshmen. In [the course titled "How do you know?"](#), "the students are being exposed to Math, English, Political Science, Biology and Psychology by some of the University's best professors—including [University President Judith] Rodin." The course was moderated by Psychology Professor Paul Rozin, who said, "It introduces people to issues to how we obtain knowledge." I was impressed by the simplicity and the depth of the question and have been thinking about ways to incorporate similar questions into our first-year courses at University College.

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A PDF version of this communiqué is available at <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu) or at the electronic town hall, here: <http://connectu.unm.edu/>. Please also see the Provost's Blog at <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>.