



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

September 28, 2016

Higher Education Economic Models: In the last few weeks in this communique, and during the campus town hall, I described the short-term financial challenges facing UNM and public higher education. The current UNM budget will face a rescission that will depend on the actual State of New Mexico budget shortfall. We also discussed that the long-term structural challenges will need the input and creative contributions of all of us. Such a long-term plan must be informed by our mission, our history, our current structures, leaders, and constituencies, yet only be faithful to our mission, and nothing else.

Since the town hall, I have received many good suggestions, and some excellent ones, on how to deal with the long-term challenges. In order to move the conversation forward, it might be helpful to provide some background on the national landscape, how we got here, and some proposed solutions from national groups. The first is a [recent book](#) “The Dream Is Over: The Crisis of Clark Kerr’s California Idea of Higher Education,” by Simon Marginson that is available through a free download at luminosoa.org.

The second comes from the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) who “initiated a two-year project that aims to help its member institutions navigate the changing dynamics of current higher education economic models.” You can find this and other NACUBO reports [here](#). The economic models project is a collaboration between the American Council on Education (ACE), the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) and the Teachers Insurance and Annuity Association (TIAA) Institute, which also provides some [context for public higher education finances](#).

Last, but not least, I highlight again the Lincoln Project on Excellence and Access in Public Higher Education from the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, with its focus on public research universities. The final report of the Lincoln project may be found at [Public Research Universities: Recommitting to Lincoln’s Vision—An Educational Compact for the 21st Century](#). In the report, members of the American Academy’s Lincoln Project make three recommendations for strategies to institutions of higher education: 1) to [address current financial challenges](#); 2) [create public-private partnerships](#); and 3) [improve student access and performance](#).

As described in the aforementioned book “The Dream Is Over,” the California plan came about in the sixties, when the country was seeking “ambitious collective solutions” to many of its challenges. The next step for UNM is, after doing our research, to seek such solutions for our own future.

Unintended Consequences: As we endeavor to launch our discussion around a new model for our university, I am reminded of the risk of simple (and not so simple) answers to the complex questions we face. One only has to look at recent writings on the [free Wi-Fi kiosks in NY City](#), or [mobile money in Kenya](#), and even more recently the [free money \(basic income\) initiative](#) to realize that unintended consequences often lurk behind the obvious goals and plans.

Black Lives Matter: The second session of [#BLACKLIVESMATTERATUNM](#) will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 4, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. in the Student Union Building, Lobo A&B. This session will introduce the main issues and recommendations outlined in UNM’s 2011 Black Campus Climate Report and the 2013 Campus Climate Survey. We will examine the potential that #BLACKLIVESMATTER has to address specific issues, impact decision-making in a positive manner, and ultimately transform institutional spaces to become better models of inclusive excellence.

University Accreditation: UNM has been continuously accredited through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1922, and our next [reaffirmation of accreditation](#) is approaching in the 2018-19 academic year. To learn more about the process, see [this short video](#) produced by Associate Provost Greg Heileman. Committees have been

working for well over a year now collecting evidence and beginning to write a quality assurance argument, which will be submitted prior to our on-site evaluation. There are two announcements regarding accreditation:

The first is that the HLC's staff liaison to UNM, Dr. Sunil Ahuja, is visiting campus next week. There are two opportunities for you to talk with him and learn more about the accreditation process. He will be giving a presentation to the Board of Regents Academic/Student Affairs and Research (ASAR) subcommittee on Thursday, Oct. 6 at 1 p.m. in the Roberts Room. Then, from 3-4 p.m., he will be in Scholes Hall room 246, for a "coffee hour," which is open to everyone.

Second, we have now selected four potential dates for our site visit. The visit will last 1-1/2 days, and begins on a Monday. In Fall 2018, we selected Oct. 8 and 22, and in Spring 2019 we selected March 4 and 25. The HLC will confirm one of those dates two weeks from now (Oct. 14). It is up to the discretion of the peer review team who they meet with on campus during their visit, but we want you to be aware of the dates.

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