

THE ACTING PROVOST'S WEEKLY BRIEF

February 1, 2017

The spring semester promises to be a time of challenges and, hopefully, opportunities as well. The challenges are many, including uncertainty regarding initiatives coming from the Trump Administration, budget issues, legislative expectations, campus climate, and others. It is going to take a great deal of cooperation and mutual communication to address these items.

As I write this report, university officials are assessing and monitoring the implications of President Trump's executive order banning nationals of seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States for at least the next 90 days. The order bars all people coming from Iraq, Syria, Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.

For now, here are some of the communications and items regarding this issue: Acting President Abdallah released a [statement](#) regarding the executive order on Monday. For interested faculty, a new website related to the immigration ban is hosting a [petition](#) for "Academics Against [the] Immigration Executive Order." Finally, the following email from the [Global Education Office](#) went out to all identified affected students:

Dear International Students and Scholars,

You are receiving this message because you are from one of the countries effected by the Executive Order signed by President Trump on Friday, January 27, 2017 (Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen). At this point in time, the order affects those who are trying to apply for U.S. visas and those visa holders trying to enter the US and does not currently include any direct mandate for those currently in the US who were lawfully admitted. We are following this situation closely and will provide additional information as it becomes available. However, for the time being you should not plan to travel outside of the US without consulting with an advisor in GEO. If you are receiving this message and you are not currently in the US, please contact me directly for further information and assistance.

We want to assure you that UNM and the GEO office are fully in support of our international students and scholars from all countries and we want you to feel welcome here. We appreciate how stressful and unnerving this situation is for everyone and we encourage you to reach out to our office and to Student Health and Counseling for support during this difficult time.

Sincerely,

Linda Melville

Director, International Student and Scholar Services
Associate Director, Global Education Office

UNM Day at the Legislature and Legislative Updates

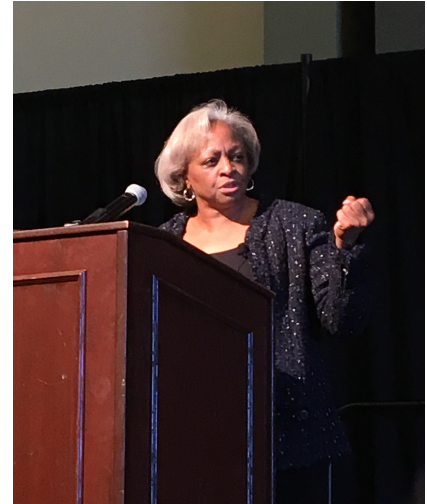
Monday was [UNM Day at the Legislature](#). Thank you to everyone who helped make it a successful day. The list is long, but certainly includes Cinnamon Blair and Argy Maniatis from Communication and Marketing, Renee Santillanes from Government Relations, and Mark Orgeron from Academic Affairs.

I encourage you to stay up to date on legislative issues impacting UNM. The Office of Government Relations has [email updates](#) and a [Bill Tracker](#) to make it easier to stay current.

32nd Annual Black History Month Kick-Off Brunch

Congratulations to the Africana Studies Program, along with the African American Student Services program, on an outstanding Black History Month Kick-Off Brunch! The event was a great celebration and awards recognition of a number of outstanding individuals. Dr. Carol Anderson was the featured speaker for the brunch, with a presentation titled "Speaking Truth to Power: Black Americans in the Active Voice of History."

Dr. Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler Professor and chair of African-American studies at Emory University, and a well-known historian of diplomatic affairs and civil rights. She is also the author of the recent "White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide." For more information on events taking place during Black History Month see the [article](#) at news.unm.edu.



Campus Community Events and Discussions at UNM

Thank you to everyone who worked to make the recent student organization-sponsored speaking event as safe as possible for all involved.

The work of dialogue and education in our community is never finished. We encourage you to check out the many programs and activities focused on current events and issues scheduled in the coming weeks, which provide a wide array of information, venues for debate and discussion, tools for thinking, and opportunities for community-building. These are listed at diverse.unm.edu and on the [UNM News website](#).

An especially timely item is the webinar, "Undocumented Students: The New Administration and What it Means for this Special Population." A viewing of the webinar will be held today at noon in CTLB 110. RSVP to diverse@unm.edu. This event is sponsored by the Division for Equity and Inclusion.

Budget Leadership Team

As I mentioned last week, the [Budget Leadership Team](#) (BLT) and its subcommittees are working to provide recommendations to the president on new revenue models, tuition and fee modeling, cost allocation, and long-term strategic planning. Each of those four topics is the focus of a separate subcommittee. As I mentioned last week, we'll be posting updates as they become available.

ASM McKinnon Center Groundbreaking Ceremony

The groundbreaking for the Anderson School of Management's McKinnon Center was held on Monday. The groundbreaking marks an effort going back several years that includes countless hours of planning and preparation.

The project received a remarkable amount of support from both inside and outside the university. This project was also one of a number of capital projects over the last several years, which have provided much needed improvements and maintenance to essential University facilities, and boosted recruitment and retention of students and faculty.

The McKinnon Center will serve an average of 2,900 students per semester. Of those, 2,400 are undergraduates (about 10% of the total undergraduate population on campus).



Financial Fitness Forum

The 2017 Financial Fitness Forum provides information on improving your financial security. UNM faculty and staff can choose among a wide range of informative seminars. More information is available [here](#).

Craig White

Acting Provost & Executive Vice President for 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. Please also see the [Provost's Blog](#).