

# The Acting Provost's Weekly Brief

**February 15, 2017**

I hope your semester is going well! Time is flying. As we get into the middle of February, and the heart of the semester, there is a broad array of activities taking place across campus. Being a member of a community such as ours makes it easier to participate in and enjoy these events, if you know how to find them.

I call your attention to University websites with information about upcoming events. University Communication and Marketing (UCAM) maintains two high-quality sites that highlight campus news and events, the University news site ([news.unm.edu](http://news.unm.edu)) and the events calendar ([unmevents.unm.edu](http://unmevents.unm.edu)), and as we've highlighted the past two weeks, [diverse.unm.edu](http://diverse.unm.edu) is a good source for information on upcoming speakers, workshops, and forums.

Universities thrive as places where we can hear speakers with expertise on matters of critical current concern. Two upcoming lectures are worth noting. This Thursday, Akhil Reed Amar, Sterling Professor of Law and Political Science at Yale University, will discuss "[The Constitution at the Crossroads](#)." That lecture is co-sponsored by the School of Law and the Yale Alumni Association of New Mexico, and is scheduled for 6:15 p.m. in the School of Law.



On Feb. 27, Dave Archambault, Sr., Tribal Chairman of the Standing Rock Sioux, will present "[Drawing the Line at daPL: Responding to 'Trumpism' and the Legacies of Settler Colonialism](#)," a lecture in connection with Teach Week sponsored by the Community and Regional Planning Program of the School of Architecture and Planning.

Communication will continue to be key as we address challenging issues this semester, and that includes your communication with me, as you identify issues that you would like to see addressed in future Weekly Briefs. Email me at [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu).

## Campus Safety

Campus safety is an important consideration in everything we do. I'd like to remind you of some of the [resources available](#) to you: the UNM Police Department offers [safety escort services](#) any time of day to anywhere on campus. There are [Emergency Blue Phones](#) located across campus, a [LoboGuardian app](#) for your mobile device, and security in the student residence halls on campus. As the acting president said in his message on Monday, perhaps the most important thing we can do is to look out for one another.

## Board of Regents

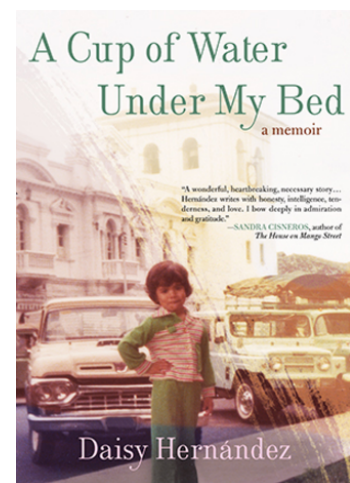
In my ongoing discussion of the structure and scope of our Board of Regents, this week I focus on the [Finance and Facilities Committee](#) (F&F). The F&F committee meets monthly to address the financial aspects of the university mission, including budget reports and audits, and facilities topics, such as construction and maintenance, purchase or disposal of properties, and real estate. Two of the most important duties of the committee are to appoint members to key university boards of directors, and to consider the setting of tuition and fees according to University policies, then make recommendations to the full Board.


The [Executive Vice President for Administration](#) has the most direct participation on the F&F Committee, along with the three appointed regents and the president. At least one of the regent members of this committee must also be a member of the Health Sciences Center committee. To get a better sense of the F&F topic areas, agendas and e-books for the meetings can be found [here](#). The full Board of Regents agendas and e-books can be found on the [Board of Regents webpage](#).

## Lobo Reading Experience

We look forward to welcoming Daisy Hernández to campus on Wed., March 1, for a [series of events](#). Ms. Hernández is the author of this year's Lobo Reading Experience selection, "A Cup of Water Under My Bed: A Memoir."

The Lobo Reading Experience is again partnering with the Celebration of Student Writing (10-4 p.m., March 1, in the SUB Ballroom) for this year's author visit. Ms. Hernández will participate on a community panel to discuss immigration, sexual orientation, and cultural identity, among other topics, from 2-3:30 pm in the SUB Ballroom. Her keynote address,





“Intimate Resistance: A talk on memoir and queer Latinidad,” will take place on Thurs., March 2, from 11-12 pm, in SUB Ballroom C. The event is open and free to the public.

## **Legislative Brief**

There will be an update soon, possibly tomorrow, about the state’s consensus revenue estimates from the Department of Finance and Administration and Legislative Finance Committee. These estimates are an important part of the state’s budget process, which also informs our own budget and planning processes. Our current situation presents challenges for our institution that, after consecutive years of absorbing cuts, require both careful deliberation and innovative thinking to address. The Budget Leadership Team, which I discussed [last week](#), will be addressing these issues. For a general understanding of the current financial situation’s impact on UNM, Acting President Abdallah spoke about it at the Town Hall on Monday. Video of the event is available on the [Office of the President webpage](#) (the question on the state’s budget forecast begins at 10:58).

## **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](mailto:provost@unm.edu).