

The Acting Provost's Weekly Brief

May 4, 2017

Happy "May the Fourth be with you" day! Hopefully, you have had, or will have, a chance to walk through the Student Union Building today. If so, you've been treated to Wookiee cookies, storm troopers, Jedi, and other members of the 501st Legion Garrison of Star Wars Characters. More information about the festivities can be found [here](#).

Today's Weekly Brief reflects the diverse events and activities currently taking place on campus. In addition to the items I discuss below, the final meeting of the Regent's Academic/Student Affairs and Research Committee (ASAR) is this afternoon. The full agenda can be found [here](#).

I wish everyone the best over the busy upcoming weeks, through finals, and onto the graduation ceremonies!

Assessment of Office of the Provost Functions

In light of the upcoming departures from Academic Affairs, which in addition to what was described in the [Weekly Brief on April 13](#) now also includes Vice Provost for Extended Learning Monica Orozco, we have begun a review of the organization and functions within academic affairs. The initial assessment will result in a number of recommendations, which we plan to implement over the summer and into fall.

UNM Press

The UNM Press administrative oversight will be transitioned from Institutional Support Services to Academic Affairs. For the remaining fiscal year all UNM Press expenditure transactions will be reviewed and pre-approved by the Provost's Office. Ultimately, the UNM Press will be transferred to the College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences; details of the transition plan are currently being drafted and will be finalized soon. In the interim, the UNM Press will report to Associate Provost Virginia Scharff.

Scopus

The University Libraries and the Health Sciences Library will be starting a process to evaluate Scopus as an alternative to the Web of Science database. Changing to Scopus has the potential for significant savings for both libraries. Given the current budget situation, the savings could minimize the reductions otherwise anticipated to books and journals. Information about the trial will be emailed next week and

also posted on the libraries' websites. Be sure to let the libraries know what you think of the alternative so they can make the best decision for the university.

Division of Equity and Inclusion

Vice President for Equity and Inclusion Jozi De Leon [recently accepted](#) a position at Cal Poly. Her last day was Friday, April 28. Dr. De Leon first worked at UNM as an assistant professor in special education, with an emphasis in culturally and linguistically diverse students with disabilities. After joining NMSU as an associate dean and, later, as associate provost, she became the first deputy secretary for Academic Affairs, Planning and Research for the state of New Mexico in 2005. She returned to UNM to be the vice president for equity and inclusion, and the chief diversity officer, in July 2008. Her contributions to the University are numerous and exemplary. She will be missed.



Dr. Josephine "Jozi" De Leon

I have asked Dr. Lawrence Roybal to serve as interim vice president. He has provided consistent leadership in a variety of roles at UNM for more than 30 years, including as the executive director of the ENLACE Statewide Collaborative, and as acting director of the LGBTQ Resource Center since December 2016.

In consultation with Acting President Abdallah, we are charging a task force to review and make recommendations on the objectives and associated administrative structures guiding the University's ongoing equity and inclusion efforts.

Teacher of the Year Awards

The [annual Teaching Awards](#) were presented at a ceremony in the Student Union Building Ballroom on Tuesday, April 25. It was a great ceremony and reception, and I was honored to have the opportunity to present the Outstanding Teacher of the Year awards to two deserving winners: Amy Brandzel, American Studies; and Kathryn McKnight, Spanish & Portuguese.

The 2017-19 Presidential Teaching Fellow is Lloyd Lee of Native American Studies. Other [recipients](#) were presented with the awards for New Teachers of the Year, Online Teacher of the Year, Lecturer or Affiliated Teachers of the Year; and the Susan Deese-Roberts Outstanding Teaching Assistants. Congratulations to all on the standard you are setting for this foundational part of the mission!

African American Student Service Awards

This past Saturday, African American Student Services recognized graduates and student organization leaders in a ceremony at the SUB. The lunch, keynote address, and awards were full of pride, friendship, and celebration. The event brightened a snowy and rainy day. Congratulations to the students and Scott Carreathers, and the entire African American Student Services team!



*The African American Student Services awards 2016-17.
(Credit: African American Student Services)*

UNM Passport Center Grand Opening

The new [Passport Center](#) in the UNM Bookstore (main campus) has its [grand opening](#) on Friday, May 5 from 1:30-3 p.m. The new center will provide passport services to UNM and the public. One of a small number of official passport acceptance facilities in the metropolitan area, the center will be open Tuesday through Saturday, for appointments and walk-ins, to process new U.S. passport applications and photos.

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.