



The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

August 24, 2017

I hope your first week of classes is off to a great start! It's always nice to start a new academic year with the "Welcome Back Week" activities around the Duckpond. So far, ice cream sandwiches, watermelon, and green chile stew have been served over the lunch hour. And not just food, but information on campus organizations has been available to new and returning students alike.

Freshman convocation also took place earlier this week. It is a wonderful way to welcome students and mark the beginning of the new academic year. The ceremony includes music, speakers, and recognition of student achievement. It's an introduction to UNM culture and tradition (and even comes with a free t-shirt). I always enjoy being a part of it.

UndocuTask Force


I have been working with a dedicated group of faculty and staff (with a special thanks to Professor Greg Martin) to put together a committee, the [UndocuTask Force](#), focused on UNM's undocumented students. Undocumented students add tremendous value to our diverse University community, and they face a particular set of extraordinary challenges. The UndocuTask Force is [charged with](#) strengthening resources and support services for these students by establishing a formal network of internal units and community partners.

The committee has focused early discussion on admission and financial issues, making resources easier for students to find, and offering trainings to front-line staff and faculty, among other issues. I will include more updates in future messages as this committee continues this important work.

Higher Learning Commission Letter

Last week President Abdallah sent [a message to campus](#) describing [a letter](#) that The University of New Mexico received from our regional accreditor, the Higher Learning Commission. The letter contained a request for a report about an audit by the New Mexico State Auditor. We are preparing that report presently, and will respond to the HLC by the required submission date of September 14, 2017.

I encourage you to read the [president's message](#) in full. The report will allow us to show that the University is financially sound, as demonstrated by annual independent audits, and the recent



reaffirmation of our bond rating, among other evidence. For more information on these topics, as well as the impact of these practices on UNM's accreditation, we put together [a FAQ](#) to clarify the issues.

La Posada Renovations

La Posada Dining Hall went through a major renovation over the summer and there will be a [Grand Opening celebration](#) on Wednesday, August 30 from 3-6 p.m. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to attend the event. There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony from 3-3:30 p.m. followed by tours, activities, and complimentary food sampling.

Lobo Rainforest Building Ribbon Cutting

The loboRainforest ribbon cutting takes place tomorrow (Friday). The ribbon cutting and open house begins at 9 a.m. and ends at noon. The open house and tours begin at 10 a.m. All are welcome at the Lobo Rainforest Building at 101 Broadway Boulevard Northeast. RSVP is not required. For more information, contact (505) 272-7900.

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A PDF version of this weekly brief is available on the [Academic Affairs website](#). Your feedback and input are welcome at provost@unm.edu.