

The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

August 31, 2017

I just walked back from the American Indian Student Services (AISS) "Welcome Back" lunch in the courtyard of Mesa Vista Hall. It was a great turnout of students, faculty and others. President Abdallah, Regent Doughty, ASUNM President Noah Brooks, and Vice President for Student Affairs Cheo Torres were on hand to offer their welcome and best wishes to the group. Pam Agoyo and the whole AISS team do an outstanding job of providing tutoring, mentorship, job opportunities, and many other support services for students. Many thanks to them for this work and helping us get the semester off to a strong start.

The welcome back events provide a nice transition as the campus moves from the quiet of summer into the morning routines, early classes, walks between buildings, lunch breaks, afternoon labs and seminars, and the general rhythms of the new semester. That shift to fall continues as the football season begins with the home opener this Saturday.

Of course, the work of the University moves forward as we move farther into the academic year. Below, I've highlighted some announcements and issues that we will be discussing over the following weeks. We are in the process of completing the associate provost search process and beginning budget assessment for AY 2017-18, and discussions for AY 2018-19. I expect to be able to provide more information on these topics next week.

Hope you have a pleasant and safe Labor Day Weekend!

Student Safety

One of the University's most important ongoing commitments is to create a safe and welcoming campus for students, faculty, and staff. This commitment requires the help of the entire Lobo community. Here is a reminder of some of the resources and efforts on campus:

- The [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) is sponsoring [#ReclaimTheRed](#), a social media campaign intended to raise awareness of The Red Zone. The Red Zone is a period between August and November during which college campuses experience an increase in sexual assaults. You can find more information [here](#). The [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) is a student's first stop to receive support and advocacy services in the aftermath of any form of crisis. The center also works

closely with confidential and anonymous reporting locations, including the [Women's Resource Center](#) and the [LGBTQ Resource Center](#).

- The [LoboGuardian App](#) was introduced to the UNM campus a couple years ago. It is designed to increase user safety through “real-time interactive features that create a virtual safety network of friends and family.” The [app](#) is free and available for iOS and Android devices.
- If you have not already done so, I encourage you to make sure you are signed up for [LoboAlerts Emergency Messaging](#). This is UNM's emergency text messaging system.
- The UNM Police and Security Department provide free escorts 24 hours a day, seven days a week, within a one-mile radius of campus. Call 277-2241 for more information.

Campus Safety Week will take place between September 18-22, and I look forward to sharing more resources with you. Until then, you can find more information about general campus safety [here](#).

Biology Annex

President Abdallah and I have been charged with providing further assessment of the plans for the use of the Biology Annex. We are in the process of assembling a small group that will include an external architectural consultant to help accomplish this task.

The group will review issues, develop analyses, engage in discussion about opportunities, and provide further input to the president and regents. The task force will invite a variety of stakeholders to present at the meetings to inform the work. The expected timeframe for the completion of this project is October. I will provide more details on the composition of the task force and work schedule as we get further into the process.

President's Town Halls

President Abdallah has planned town hall-style meetings for main and north campuses in September. Each event will include a brief presentation and open question and answer session.


President's Town Hall Meetings

Main Campus - Thursday, September 7, 12-1 p.m., SUB Ballroom C

North Campus - Monday, September 11, 12-1 p.m., Domenici Auditorium

Honorary Degree Nominations

The Office of the Secretary is looking for nominations for [honorary degree recipients](#): “Strong candidates will be eminent individuals and scholars whose contributions are of general significance, and transcend geographical limitations. Nominations of individuals who have contributed significantly to the cultural or



scientific development of the Southwest, or to the spiritual or material welfare of its people are especially welcome. A successful nominee must have an exemplary record of academic or public accomplishment in keeping with the University's standards of rigor, quality, and significance. Honorary degrees are awarded at spring commencement." For more information on making nominations, please see the information [here](#). Nominations are due no later than Friday, October 13.

Professor Victor Acosta

UNM Assistant Professor Victor Acosta was [recently named](#) as one of eight recipients of the Beckman "Young Investigator Awards." He gave a poster presentation at the Beckman Young Investigator Program in Irvine, CA, on his research project, "Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy on a Diamond Chip," Professor Acosta works as part of a research group, the [Quantum Nanophotonics and Biosensing Team](#). Congratulations to Professor Acosta on the much-deserved recognition!

The History of the University of New Mexico

The UNM History Department is offering a class this semester about the "[History of The University of New Mexico](#)." The course is structured around a series of public lectures (the opening lecture was given by President Abdallah last week). I encourage you to check out the schedule of lectures and consider attending. Knowing more about UNM's storied past can give you a deeper sense of connection to a place and history that we all share.

Craig White

Interim 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.