



The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

September 8, 2017

I hope you had an enjoyable Labor Day weekend! It was good to get a little bit of a break before we move into the main part of the semester. It was also great to see the Lobo football team get off to a strong start with a win against Abilene Christian University. We wish them the best as they take on the Aggies tomorrow.

I was pleased to participate yesterday in President Abdallah's first town hall of the year. He further outlined his thoughts on the process and goals of "reengineering" the University. He reiterated the point that the quickly changing higher education environment makes it imperative to proactively work to ensure that UNM is positioned for sustainability and success into the future. Attendees asked a broad array of questions, ranging from the status of the hiring review process to the role of the branch campuses. If you would like to see the discussion, here is a [link to the video](#).

Undocumented Students and Know Your Rights Training

Earlier this week President Trump announced that he plans to end DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals), an immigration policy that extended work permits and other protections against deportation to 800,000 undocumented immigrants who entered the country as minors. This decision of course impacts a number of UNM students and their families—members of our community, our classmates and friends.

As I announced a couple weeks ago, we established the Undocu-Task Force to address a number of challenges that undocumented students face on our campus, and to develop resources to support them. We will continue this important work, and I will continue to keep you updated, as the issue changes at the national level.

I also want to highlight an event later today, a "Know Your Rights Training," from 1-3 p.m. in the UNM Art Museum. The [Sanctuary Campus Working Group](#), [El Centro de la Raza](#), undocumented students from the [NM Dream Team](#), and the [NM Immigrant Law Center](#) will provide more information about advocacy and actions we can take to make UNM a safer campus.

New Members of the Academic Affairs Team

I am pleased to announce the appointment of two new associate provosts: Associate Professor Pamela Cheek has been selected as the [Interim Associate Provost for Curriculum and Assessment](#); and Professor Alex Lubin has been selected as the [Interim Associate Provost for Faculty Development](#). They both bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to their respective positions. I am happy to be adding such distinguished members of our faculty to the Academic Affairs team.

The search attracted a number of highly qualified candidates. I would like to offer my thanks to everyone who expressed an interest in the positions and participated in the interviews. I am also extremely grateful to the search committee members for their time and effort in this process.

UNM Budget Leadership Team

The Budget Leadership Team (BLT) began its work on the FY 2018-2019 budget this week. The committee will be meeting monthly through December. Then, during the spring semester, the group will meet bi-weekly through the regent's budget summit.

The charge of the committee is to prepare recommendations for the president for his consideration for presentation to the regents. The areas of review include tuition and expenditure levels, potential new revenue sources, and long range budget planning. The BLT also reviews and comments on the recommendations to the president of the Student Fee Review Board. The committee is organized into the following subcommittees: Branch Campuses, FY 19 Budget Development Technical Team, Tuition/Fees, New Revenues/Cost Reallocation, and Long-Term Strategic Planning. The recommendations of the subcommittees are brought to the full group for discussion and consideration.

I will keep you informed as the BLT receives information on the status of the current budget and makes recommendations for next year.

People and Places - Center for Southwest Research

The Center for Southwest Research is holding a [series of lectures](#), called "People and Places," throughout this semester. The next guest lecturer is Jerry Thompson, a Regent's Professor of History at Texas A&M University. He will be [presenting](#) "Forgotten Soldiers: New Mexico Volunteers and Militia in the Civil War." The event will be held on Thursday, September 14, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. in the Frank Waters Room in Zimmerman Library. These events are free and open to the public. More information on the entire series can be found [here](#).



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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.