



The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

October 20, 2017

Good Afternoon!

One of the objectives of Interim President Abdallah's "Reengineering the University" initiative is to identify ways to increase revenue, particularly in light of changes to enrollments and other factors affecting the budget. The sources of funds available are the following: 1) tuition and fees, 2) state appropriations, 3) research funding, 4) private giving, and 5) service/profit centers. An ongoing challenge is to determine the degree to which these factors are within our collective control.


The University has been looking at a variety of financial models over the past few years to incentivize increasing revenues. The general approach in these models is to pass through a portion of revenues to the specific colleges generating the funds. This type of method is difficult to implement for base allocation amounts in an environment of decreasing enrollments and tuition. However, we have not totally given up on this idea. We are looking to implement forms of the revenue flow-through model for new initiatives.

I signed a Memorandum of Agreement this week to split managed online program revenue 65/35% between the school providing the program (65%), and the Office of Academic Affairs and the central reserve fund (35%). The idea is to encourage departments to be creative in developing new enrollments. This agreement supports Strategic Plan Objectives 1.1.1 and 6.1.1. The full University Strategic plan can be found [here](#).

We are also working on a similar revenue-split approach with programs for agreements that bring in new international students. Overall, we will all need to work together to address these challenges. I look forward to further discussion over the remainder of the academic year.

Board of Regents Meeting

The Board of Regents held its monthly full board meeting this week. Academic Affairs was well represented with presentations from both Senior Vice Provost Rich Wood and Associate Provost Pamela Cheek. Professors Wood and Cheek discussed issues they are addressing, including HLC accreditation, program assessment and measurement of outcomes, and the ongoing discussion about articulation



between institutions of the general education core. Each of these topics has major implications for the academic mission.

Another major agenda item was the categorization of reserves. Interim President Abdallah went over a presentation detailing the University's committed, dedicated, and unrestricted reserves for plant and operating funds for both the Health Sciences Center and Main campus. These amounts are critical to the status of the institution. Reserve amounts will play an important role in the current academic year in bridging any budgetary shortfalls due to enrollment decreases or other causes. The detail of each of the reserve amounts and their uses can be found in the Regents' meeting e-book found [here](#).

Dr. Sul Kassicieh

Just as the University community was preparing for the Anderson School of Management's annual [Business Plan Competition](#), we learned that the event's founder, Dr. Suleiman (Sul) Kassicieh passed away at the age of 65 from complications from cancer. The event will be bittersweet this year. During Sul's distinguished 36-year career at UNM, he had a passion for technology ventures, job creation and entrepreneurial start-ups, especially in Albuquerque and New Mexico. Sul created the annual Business Plan Competition as an on-going collaboration between UNM and the business community, including the national labs. He was the Anderson School of Management's first distinguished professor, a fact that was due in no small part to his dedication to the University and Albuquerque communities. He will be dearly missed. Information on the memorial service, taking place this evening, can be found [here](#).

School of Engineering Accreditation Reaffirmed

The Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology's (ABET) Engineering Accreditation Commission (EAC) recently concluded their site visit and review of the School of Engineering, which was last evaluated six years ago. The School of Engineering's [accreditation was reaffirmed](#) for all of Engineer's degree programs, including those in Chemical, Civil, Computer, Construction, Electrical, Mechanical and Nuclear Engineering. The Computer Science program will be evaluated by the Computing Accreditation Commission (CAC) of ABET during the fall 2017 semester. Congratulations to the School of Engineering for the hard work they put into the self-study and site visit preparations. The accreditation process reinforces our belief in the excellence of our degree programs, which meet and in many cases surpass national standards for quality.

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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.