



The Interim Provost's Weekly Brief

December 8, 2017

I was pleased to attend the Lobos women's basketball game against Texas Tech this Wednesday evening as a guest of Faculty Senate President Pamela Pyle, and joined by other faculty senators. The University's upcoming president, Garnett Stokes, was also in attendance. She picked an exciting first Lobo game to attend! It was great to see the team reach a 10-0 record—the best start in the program's history. We wish the team continued success both on the court and in the classroom. Go Lobos!

I also wish you all the best as we approach finals week and graduation. I hope 2017 is ending on a positive note and that you get a chance for some rest and relaxation over the upcoming Winter Break.

Budget Leadership Team (BLT)

We had a good BLT meeting yesterday. The subcommittees have been preparing for the bigger push following the beginning of the year. The highlight of the meeting was some positive news from Executive Vice President David Harris on the condition of the state's budget. The revenue picture for New Mexico has improved substantially over the past few months. With an increase in tax revenues, the University could potentially have a flat-to-slightly-increased state budget allocation. This would provide us with some much needed budget flexibility. The allocation will be determined in January or February, as the legislature holds its 30-day session.

Board of Regents - Academic/Student Affairs & Research Committee

The Board of Regents' ASAR committee met yesterday afternoon. I provided my final administrative report to the Regents for this calendar year. As I mentioned in last week's message, I will be returning to my role as dean of the Anderson School of Management in January. The ASAR agenda included action items from Interim Associate Provost Pamela Cheek, on phasing out a certificate at Gallup, and Faculty Senate President Pamela Pyle, on degree candidates for Fall 2017. We also discussed the Biology Annex recommendation, which I talked about [last week](#), along with a presentation on a range of faculty topics from Interim Associate Provost Alex Lubin, and an update on the UNM Press, from the interim director, Richard Schuetz.

Commencement Ceremony Volunteers

This is a final call for volunteers for the Fall 2017 Commencement. If you are available and interested in volunteering, please visit the [sign-up page](#). This year, there will be a single commencement for graduates from all degree programs and at all levels. The event will be held on Dec. 15 at 6 p.m. in Dreamstyle Arena. For more information, visit the [graduation page](#).

New Mexico Educated Workforce in STEM

The [New Mexico Educated Workforce in STEM \(NEWS\) Symposium](#) will be held Tuesday-Thursday, Dec. 19-21. The symposium will bring together members of New Mexico's highly-educated STEM workforce with representatives from government, business, technology, and economic areas. The focus is on connecting young STEM professionals to opportunities in New Mexico. This is part of an overall effort to curb the loss of STEM professionals to other state economies, something often referred to as "brain drain." If you're interested in attending the event, you can find more information on the [Symposium page](#), or by email NEWS.NM2017@gmail.com.

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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.