



# The Acting Provost's Weekly Brief

**March 22, 2017**

Welcome Back! I hope you had a chance to have some down time during Spring Break (and hopefully not too difficult of a switch to Daylight Savings Time). It is hard to believe that April is almost here. I have experienced and seen a lot of eye rubbing and sneezing. That is a sure sign of spring in New Mexico!

As an institution, we face a number of uncertainties; however, it is encouraging to see the continued focus and commitment to the academic mission of the University. In all of the issues discussed below, the focus on the mission will guide our actions. As always, if you have any questions or comments, please let me know.

## **Legislative Update**

The legislative session ended in an incomplete status with no budget agreement in place and a number of unresolved matters including confirmation of the regent nominees. There will likely be a special session. Our government relations team will continue to provide input into the process and monitor the outcomes. I will keep you posted as we obtain resolution as I'm sure the President will as well.

Other than the budget, there were other issues before the Legislature that affect UNM. For instance, HB 108 (addressing college credit transfers, "meta majors," and common course numbering) was passed by the Legislature. The final version of the bill can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Sessions/17%20Regular/bills/house/HB0108.pdf>

Also, there were many bills introduced during the session related to the Lottery Scholarship. None of these bills was ultimately passed. The budget bill that was passed through the Legislature did include renewal of an allocation from the liquor excise tax to "shore up" funding to the Lottery Scholarship. However, it is deemed unlikely that the Governor will sign this bill. Therefore, there is still risk that the funding for the program will decrease.

## **Board of Regents**

As indicated in the legislative update above, the new regent nominees did not make it to the confirmation process. Therefore, it looks like the current board members will stay in place for the time being with the

addition of student regent Garrett Adcock. In future Briefs, I will share more about the process that the State uses to name our governing body members.

The last Regents' Academic, Student Affairs and Research Committee (ASAR) had a robust agenda that included discussion of differential tuition increases for two programs, a budget leadership team update (more details below), an update on the research strategic plan (open forum info below), and a discussion of our process for selection of both Regent professor/lecturer and distinguished professor ranks.

Associate Provost Virginia Scharff shared with ASAR the policy references and process for selection of our most recognized and distinguished faculty that are assessed at the department, college and university level. They are Faculty Handbook Policies 2.2.4: Regents' Professor and Regents' Lecturer, and 2.2.5: Distinguished Professor. For more detailed information, the link to these policies can be found at: <http://handbook.unm.edu/policies/section-b/b2.html>. We will expand on this topic in a future Brief that includes recognition of the individuals that currently hold these titles.

## **Budget Leadership Team (BLT)**

The BLT continues to draft a budget proposal for Acting President Abdallah's consideration. The next meeting of the committee will be Thursday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>. The objective of the meeting will be to approve revenue and cost saving recommendations. The BLT will also provide input to the President regarding discussions with regents regarding the budget recommendations. As background, we provided the Board of Regents (BOR) with the latest estimate of the FY '18 budget status and an overview of the structure and approach of the BLT committee. Many of the BLT subcommittees will continue working following the development of the FY '18 budget. The purpose will be to further develop and help implement many of the ideas that have come out of this year's process. The summary can be found on pages 247 - 248 in the E-book for the BOR meeting: <http://regents.unm.edu/meetings/documents/2017/bor-ebook-2017-03-13.pdf>

## **Announcements**

### **Provost Committee for Staff hosts "Meet, Greet & Give"**

The Provost's Committee for Staff at The University of New Mexico hosts "Meet, Greet & Give," the week of March 20-24 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the University Club. Further information can be found through the UNM News Minute here: <http://news.unm.edu/news/provost-committee-for-staff-hosts-meet-greet-give> .

### **Research Strategic Plan Forums**

The Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) was charged with creating a strategic plan to focus specifically

on research and creative scholarship on main campus. The OVPR assembled a diverse committee of faculty and staff from colleges across campus to guide the process of developing the plan and has posted the draft, working group reports and presentations at <http://research.unm.edu/rsp-reports-presentations> . In the upcoming weeks, there will be open forums in the SUB Lobo A&B to discuss the strategic plan with the intent to gather feedback from faculty, staff and students. The UNM community and interested individuals are welcome to attend any for and provide feedback. Light refreshments will be provided.

**FORUM SCHEDULE:**

Forum I: Wednesday 03/22/2017, 3:30pm - 4:30pm, SUB Lobo A&B; Forum II: Thursday 03/23/2017, 1:30pm - 2:30pm, SUB Lobo A&B Forum III: Wednesday 03/29/2017, 9:00am - 10:00am, SUB Lobo A&B \*Forum IV: Thursday 03/30/2017, 10:00am - 11:00am, SUB Lobo A&B.

## **Craig White**

Acting 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](mailto:provost@unm.edu).