



The Academic Affairs Weekly Brief

January 12, 2018

Happy New Year! With the beginning of 2018, there have been a number of comings and goings to acknowledge:

As many of you already know, Interim Provost Craig White returned to his previous role as dean of Anderson School of Management effective January 1 and I stepped in as interim provost for January and February 2018. With incoming President Garnett Stokes joining UNM on March 1, Interim President Chaouki Abdallah will return to his provost role at that time. Pamela Cheek and Alex Lubin will continue in their interim associate provost roles. I will return to my interim senior vice provost role upon Dr. Abdallah's return.

I here recognize Dr. Craig White for his outstanding interim leadership of Academic Affairs during the last year. It has been a pleasure to work with him, and we wish him the best as he returns to lead the Anderson School of Management.

I am pleased to announce that Dr. Monica Kowal is joining Academic Affairs as the Director of Community Engagement Initiatives. Her appointment is a key part of our efforts to strengthen and coordinate community engagement across campus, and make progress toward our goal of earning the "Community Engagement Classification" from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. Dr. Kowal brings valuable experience and leadership to bear on a critical aspect of UNM's academic mission. If you do research, teaching, or professional/community service rooted in your academic expertise that significantly engages society or communities in New Mexico, the U.S., or around the world, please look to be in contact with her.

One final note on transitions this year: Dr. Wynn Goering retired in December after twenty years with the University of New Mexico, including time as a student, faculty member, and administrator. He held two positions in academic affairs, associate provost and vice provost, from 2005 to 2012. He has advised university presidents, and served as chief executive officer of UNM West, and as interim executive director of UNM's branch campuses in Taos, Gallup, and Los Alamos. Wynn has served with distinction, and on behalf of the University I thank him for his many years of outstanding service.

Women of Influence

On February 12, several outstanding UNM women will be recognized at the [Albuquerque Business First Women of Influence Award Luncheon](#). The UNM award recipients include Dr. Dora Careaga-Coleman, Assistant Professor, Marjorie Goldstein, VP of Finance and Chief Financial Officer at UNM Medical Group, Inc., Dr. Ane Gonzalez Lara, Assistant Professor, Dean Kymberly Pinder, Dean of the College of Fine Arts at UNM, and Sonia M. Gipson Rankin, Associate Dean for Curriculum and Program Development at University College. Congratulations to the deserving awardees.

Division of Equity and Inclusion Task Force Recommendations

In [September](#), Interim Provost Craig White worked with Interim President Abdallah to establish a task force on equity and inclusion, to review UNM's mission and organization, and make recommendations regarding key strategic goals and improved organizational structure. The task force was composed of a diverse group of talented and widely respected faculty, staff, and students, who worked to provide recommendations by the end of this past year. The task force delivered their [final report and recommendations](#) to University leadership in December.

I encourage you to read the report in its entirety. It articulates a strategic vision of UNM's future in terms of "excellence-**and**-equity" and includes a number of specific recommendations, including changes to organizational structure, campus climate, and how we think about and act upon our commitment to inclusivity, specifically as a research university, to name just a few (more than can be addressed here). The specific recommendations are organized around a few core ideas: that organizational transformation requires that equity and excellence be placed at the heart of our mission, that this will require transparency, accountability, and sustained discipline to achieve, and that success will require drawing on and reshaping the core skill sets of everyone in the institution.

Richard Wood

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.