



# The Academic Affairs Weekly Brief

**February 2, 2018**

The semester is well underway; several upcoming events (see the [Spring Workshop schedule](#)) will address the challenges of teaching amid the tensions of these days. I sent out a “[long memo](#)” regarding the academic mission during the transition in leadership at UNM; I invite your feedback via the [online portal](#). Lots of other news below.

- Richard Wood, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

## **NM Legislative Session 2018**

House Bill #2, the key state funding bill, was approved by the House on a strong bipartisan vote this week. The Senate is considering that bill now, along with its own spending priorities. HB2 would add 1% to the higher education funding base, and designate 4% of the budget from each institution to be redistributed around those same institutions. Both the new money and redistributed money would be allocated according to the funding formula. Legislation foresees a 2% increase in base pay for higher education employees, but only funds a little less than half. But there is lots of work left on the state budget before the end of the legislative session, so stay tuned. UNM is also monitoring a couple of key lottery bills. See the [Government Relations webpage](#) for more information.

## **Women in STEM Faculty Research Development Awards**

The Office of the VP for Research is accepting proposals for the latest round of the [Women in STEM Faculty Research Development awards](#). Information about last year’s awards can be found [here](#). For this award, STEM faculty are defined as those with research interests that align with priorities identified by NSF, NIH (non-clinical), or DOE. Proposals are due by 5 p.m., March 26, 2018 and all questions should be sent to [frdo@unm.edu](mailto:frdo@unm.edu).

## **Ronald E. McNair Scholars Program**

The application for our 2018-19 McNair and Research Opportunity Program (ROP) cohorts opened Feb. 1 at [mcnair.unm.edu](http://mcnair.unm.edu). The priority deadline is April 15. Undergraduate students with at least 60 credits by Fall 2018 and a 3.0 cumulative GPA are encouraged to apply. Other eligibility requirements are listed on [the application](#). Students in the program receive faculty guidance for their research projects, a summer research stipend of up to \$2800, paid travel opportunities, and monthly seminars and intensive

advisement designed to prepare students for research and graduate school. Other benefits are listed on the [mcnair.unm.edu](http://mcnair.unm.edu) website. For questions about the program, please call 277-5491 or email [mcnair@unm.edu](mailto:mcnair@unm.edu).

### **Undergraduate Library Research Awards**

University Libraries is debuting an Undergraduate Library Research Award this spring to recognize excellence in undergraduate research that incorporates the use of University Libraries resources and demonstrates sophisticated information literacy skills. Student award winners receive a cash prize (\$500-1st place, \$200-2nd place, \$200-3rd place) and recognition of their efforts. Applications are due Monday, Feb. 12. Two sessions (Wednesday, Jan. 24 from 10-11 a.m. in the Fine Arts & Design Library classroom; and Tuesday, Feb. 6 from 4-5 p.m. in Zimmerman Library, room 254) will be held to answer questions and assist students with the application process. Our [Hulsman Award webpage](#) has additional information. Students may also contact [ugresearchaward@unm.edu](mailto:ugresearchaward@unm.edu) with any questions.

### **School of Engineering Promotional Videos**

The School of Engineering has recently created two new [promotional videos](#) to highlight SOE's strengths to prospective students, and may be of general interest to the UNM Community.

### **Preferred/Affirmed Name Initiative**

UNM students, faculty, and staff can now use their [preferred or affirmed first names on LoboCards](#). This is the first step in a long-term initiative to reflect preferred or affirmed first names in other UNM systems. Please note, however, that there is currently an inconsistency between the first names that appear on the LoboCards of some students and names appearing in other University systems—including class rosters, LoboWeb faculty and advisor pages, and LoboAchieve—which still reflect the students' legal first names. Please be mindful of the possibility for such discrepancies, and address them with sensitivity, tact, and discretion.

### **Roundtable on Sexual Assault and Harassment on College Campuses**

On Tuesday, Feb. 13, a roundtable on [Sexual Assault and Harassment on College Campuses: Problems, Solutions, and Analyses](#) will be held from 12:15-1:30 p.m. in the UNM SUB, in Lobo A&B. The roundtable is sponsored by the Office for the Vice President for Research, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy, and other groups. Faculty from University of Texas-Austin, MIT, the University of Georgia, and UNM will speak about policy interventions and their effects on the campus climate.

## **UNM Law School Ranking**

PreLaw Magazine recently announced rankings of U.S. law schools, and [ranked UNM](#) (see page 35) as the number one law school in the nation for Hispanic students.

## **Alice Letteney 2017 Citizen of the Year**

Congratulations to Dr. Alice Letteney, chief operating officer of UNM-Valencia, who was just [chosen as the 2017 Citizen of the Year](#) by the Greater Belen Chamber of Commerce. Letteney has been in her current position for more than 20 years, providing excellent leadership and service to her community.

## **From the faculty and staff team in the Office of the Provost/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).