

# The Academic Affairs Weekly Brief

**February 9, 2018**

Good news and bad news on the budget front. On one hand, new revenues in New Mexico have made possible proposals in the Legislature for new funding for higher education, including a likely compensation increase. The final decisions will be made in the next few days; your public servants there would love to hear from you. On the other hand, the need to “backfill” a variety of cuts from previous years that were solved with one-time money to protect the academic mission now must be absorbed into the ongoing budget, so we will still face real cuts across the University—just not as severe as they would have been without new funding from the State. Creative work going on around campus in planning the budget; on behalf of all, I would especially like to thank the Budget Leadership Team for their ongoing effort.

On a different front: [This posting](#) reflects the kinds of destructive and dishonest attacks that professors and other public figures in higher education are facing in today’s climate. Recent panels at UNM sponsored by the Faculty Senate and by the Center for Teaching & Learning have reflected on these dynamics and offered tools to address them. The Office of the Provost is organizing an upcoming panel on this topic, focused on how social media are being used in this regard and best practices for responding.

Meanwhile, lots of good things happening around the University, a few of them highlighted below. Have a great weekend.

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

## **UNM Press**

As many in the UNM community know, there have been efforts over the last two years to identify a sustainable long-term approach for the UNM Press. Given the evolution of scholarly publishing, internal financial challenges and changes in leadership, it had been difficult to identify a viable solution. After much research, discussion and negotiation, I am happy to report that the UNM Press has a new home within University Libraries and Learning Sciences (UL&LS). On Feb. 2, a [memorandum of understanding](#) was signed making this official. Among other things, it lays out plans to make the Press debt-free and sustainable and resolves long-term archival storage issues for UL&LS. It is a win-win-win for UNM, the UNM Press and for UL&LS. My deepest appreciation goes out to all who were involved in making this happen.

## **Black History Month Events**

The first week of Black History month was packed with great events, coordinated by the [Office of African American Student Services](#) (AASS), and there are many more to come. See the [calendar](#) for details on times and locations.

## **Faculty Senate Curricula Committee**

The Faculty Senate Curricula Committee reviews hundreds of proposals for changes to how we teach every semester, from slight course title adjustments to major proposals for new degrees. The work is challenging and time-consuming because of the range and number of proposals, as well as the quality they bring to the review process. We would like to thank Dr. Kristina Wittstrom, Chair of the Curricula Committee, and all of the [dedicated members of the committee](#) for their hard work providing effective oversight of curricula.

## **Office of Assessment and Academic Program Review**


The newly restructured Office of Assessment and Academic Program Review (APR) is holding an open house Feb. 26 from 2-4 p.m. in Dane Smith Hall 218. Please join Provost Richard Wood and Associate Provost Pamela Cheek to meet the Assessment/APR team, share cookies and coffee, and gather information and ideas about how the office can collaborate with you in supporting teaching, learning, and review of programs and research.

## **Millennial Leadership Award**

Cindy Nava received the inaugural Millennial Leadership Award presented by the Hispano Round Table of New Mexico during their Annual Tribute to Legislators on Jan. 31. She is currently pursuing a master of arts in educational leadership at the University of New Mexico. Cindy serves as the executive director of the Learning Alliance of New Mexico and has held fellowships with ENLACE New Mexico, the Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center for Health Policy while at the University of New Mexico.

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

The ongoing commitment of faculty, staff and students at UNM to stopping sexual harassment and sexual assault on our campus is crucial, urgent, and valuable. Faculty from UT Austin, MIT, the University of Georgia, and UNM will speak about policy interventions and their effects on the campus climate in the [upcoming roundtable](#) on "Sexual Assault and Harassment on College Campuses: Problems, Solutions, and Analyses," sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Research, the Robert Wood Johnson



Foundation (RWJF) Center for Health Policy, and other groups. The event will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 13 from 12:15-1:30 p.m. in the UNM SUB, in Lobo A&B.

**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).