

# The Academic Affairs Weekly Brief

**February 23, 2018**

Lots of great things happening on campus, some of it profiled below. Budget news not nearly so rosy: Despite much-better-than-anticipated new revenue from the state legislative appropriation (still under review by Governor Martinez), we face an extremely difficult budget year. Recent enrollment declines, the need to still fill holes from past budget cuts, and the fact that the State funds less than half of the amount needed for the proposed compensation increase place enormous stress on the budget. We are leaving no leaf or rock unturned in seeking redress. We encourage you to attend the Budget Summit, currently scheduled for March 22 in the SUB Ballrooms.

- Richard Wood, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs (returning March 1 to full time role as interim Senior Vice Provost)

## **Faculty Survey: Important for UNM's Accreditation**

As you know, UNM is currently in the process of reaffirming its accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission (HLC). In order to assess how and whether things have improved since our last accreditation in 2009, we are conducting a survey of faculty. So far, response rates are low—please search your email for a note with subject line "UNM Communication and Governance Survey Invitation" and respond; it should take no more than 10 minutes, with your time much appreciated.

## **Zimmerman Murals**

The University's efforts to engage directly with the need for restorative justice vis-à-vis our complex history continues; here's a [good write-up](#) of current work by UNM students, faculty, staff, and leadership regarding the Adams mural in Zimmerman Library. This effort responds to decades of concern, including a letter from concerned Library staff who work in the mural environment.

## **Honor President Chaouki Abdallah's Service as UNM's 22<sup>nd</sup> President**

Join the University community in thanking Chaouki Abdallah for his years of service as UNM's 22nd President (an honor bestowed officially on him only last week, removing "interim" from his title). The event will be held Monday, Feb. 26 from 3-4:30 p.m. in the lobby of Popejoy Hall. All are welcome!

## **Celebrate President Garnett Stokes' Arrival as UNM's 23<sup>rd</sup> President**

Join the University community again on Thursday, March 1 to welcome President Stokes to UNM, from 10-10:45 a.m. in the Student Union Building Atrium. All welcome!

## **Farris Engineering Center Dedication**

Also on Thursday, there will be a dedication ceremony for the completed renovation of Farris Engineering Center. That will be held from 3:30-5:30 p.m. There will be tours of the center and refreshments will be provided.

## **NSF Career Award: UNM Professor Zhen Peng**

In faculty news, Zhen Peng, an assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering (ECE), was recently awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER Award. The award provides \$500,000 over five years, in support of his project "Physics-Oriented Statistical Wave Analysis Integrating Order and Chaos." You can find more information in the [ECE story](#).

## **Fulbright Award for UNM Professor Joe Galewsky**

Earth and Planetary Sciences faculty member Joe Galewsky will spend the 2018-19 academic year working at two prominent French climate labs: Laboratoire de Météorologie Dynamique (LMD) and Laboratoire Atmosphères, Milieux, Observations Spatiales (LATMOS). He will be working with colleagues to use new techniques in the analysis of atmospheric water vapor to better understand and model future climate change. Congratulations to Professor Galewsky on the Fulbright Award!

## **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).