



The Academic Affairs Weekly Brief

March 2, 2018

This week, the entire campus community welcomed President Garnett Stokes to the University, and Academic Affairs welcomed Chaouki Abdallah back as Provost. I return to my interim role as senior vice provost, with the search to fill that role for the longer term to be launched in coming weeks. Meanwhile, much remains in play regarding what the budget for the academic mission will look like in the coming year. Key decisions are likely to be made at the Budget Summit, currently planned for March 22. More news and opportunities around campus are below.

- Richard L. Wood, Interim Senior Vice Provost

Campus Safety

Last week, now-Provost Chaouki Abdallah released [a statement to campus](#) about safety and communication that is vitally important to keep within our focus as a campus. If you have not already read it, I encourage you to do so.

Teaching and Researching in Contentious Times: Resources for Faculty

At a time of intense political, social, economic, and cultural division within the nation, those teaching and doing research at universities—whether scientists, humanists, or social scientists—have increasingly been the objects of personal and political attacks. On Tuesday, March 6, from 12-1:30 p.m. in Travelstead Hall, Academic Affairs has organized a panel discussion that aims to address teaching and research in contentious times. An introduction by Sylvia Celedon-Pattichis, Language, Literary and Socio-Cultural Studies, will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Emma Rodriguez, Associate University Counsel; Jackie Hood, Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee; Daniel Jiron and Jordan Scott, University Communications and Marketing; and Alex Lubin, Associate Provost for Faculty Development.

NSF Career Award: UNM Professor Vanessa Svihla

Vanessa Svihla, an assistant professor in Organization, Information & Learning Sciences and a secondary appointment in Chemical & Biological Engineering, was recently awarded a National Science Foundation CAREER Award to conduct research on how people learn engineering design. She will present a short overview of this project at the Board of Regents meeting on March 12 around 11:15 a.m. You can learn more about her research on the FRAME project [here](#).

Faculty Survey

The survey of main campus faculty regarding governance at UNM ends Friday, March 9. If you have not responded, please take a few minutes to do so: search your UNM email for "UNM Survey on Communication and Governance." We are aware that many faculty are feeling over-surveyed, and we will be seeking to address that burden soon. But please do respond to this one: we need insight regarding governance for our upcoming reaffirmation of accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission. Please note we have also now sent the parallel survey of HSC faculty, with a deadline of March 23.

National Lynton Award for Junior Faculty

Academic Affairs and its Office of Community Engagement Initiatives invite chairs and directors of academic units to nominate a maximum of one junior faculty member in their department or program for the [2018 Ernest A. Lynton Award for the Scholarship of Engagement for Early Career Faculty](#). We will select one person to nominate officially on behalf of UNM. At this stage, we need only a one-page statement from the chair or director, plus a current CV from the person being nominated. Please submit those materials by April 1 to Monica M. Kowal, kowall@unm.edu, Director of Community Engagement Initiatives in Academic Affairs.

What is Restorative Justice?

An upcoming conversation, "What is Restorative Justice?" features Dr. Kathy Powers, associate professor of Political Science, and Cristian Correa, senior associate at the International Center for Transitional Justice. The event will be held at 5 p.m. on March 5 in the Willard Room, Zimmerman Library. The event is organized and supported by the Zimmerman Mural planning group.

Spring 2018 University Commencement

It is never too early to begin thinking about campus preparations for Spring Commencement. This year's event will include Dr. Garnett Stoke's installation as our new president. These events benefit greatly from the involvement and attendance of our faculty, staff, and administration, in addition to the students, their family and friends, and all others who attend. Please consider attending or volunteering this year. If you've not attended Commencement in some time, this is the The Spring 2018 UNM Commencement and Presidential Installation will be held in Dreamstyle Arena (The Pit), on Saturday, May 12 at 9 a.m. Information on volunteering can be found [here](#), and general information can be found [here](#).

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.