

The Wednesday Communiqué

October 24, 2018

Though it feels like winter out there, as the photo below suggests, we are about halfway through the Fall semester. Lots going on at the University, and some key things highlighted here. And in this time, let's not forget there's an election going on, and your vote matters. Early voting on the upper floor of SUB on Monday through Saturdays until November 3.

Life in New Mexico

One of the many great things that keep a lot of us at UNM is how fine it is to live in New Mexico. So each week I'm sharing things that make my life good here. Today: Autumn leaves spread on the forest floor at Fourth of July Canyon last weekend, about an hour south of Tijeras in the Manzano Mountains. It was a gorgeous autumn leaf-topia, not to be missed if you can get there in next few days.



Re-Designing the University: Moving Forward

We are now launching Phase II of the “Re-Designing the University” initiative begun last year. Six redesign task forces, focused on different areas of challenge and opportunity facing the University, and a core committee under the authority of Academic Affairs will coordinate the effort. The members of those task forces will be chosen from among those who had served most effectively on the six initial redesign task forces. Phase II will involve conversations with stakeholders around the University, as appropriate for a given idea or topic that emerged from the Re-Design taskforces: the Deans’ Council, Faculty Senate Committees, Staff Council or its committees, ASUNM or GPSA, the Committee on Governance, AF&T (if needed), or particular units. Given the budgetary challenges facing us, those conversations will proceed on parallel tracks: Large ideas that would constitute major changes will proceed more slowly and consultatively; less substantial items that offer the opportunity to realize savings or address crucial challenges may proceed on the basis of more immediate consultation. Stay tuned here for ongoing developments and plans.

Budget

UNM continues to do the internal work needed to confront our budget challenges. On the Academic Affairs side, we are working intensely on formulating best strategy for absorbing recent revenue losses due to Fall enrollment shortfall. But we are simultaneously seeking to protect student learning, student success, and the research mission through which UNM most contributes to the state. The Budget Leadership Team has begun deliberations, and the new Enrollment Task Force will shortly.

College of Fine Arts

I am happy to announce the appointment of Dr. Regina Carlow as interim Dean of Fine Arts in the wake of news of Dean Kymberly Pinder's departure. During this important transition, Regina brings a proven record of leadership and service to UNM students and to the wider New Mexico community. I am confident that the CFA can continue its growth under her guidance. The appointment is effective Jan. 1, 2019. Dean Pinder recently announced that she is accepting a position as provost and senior vice president at the Massachusetts College of Art and Design in Boston. She will be sorely missed as a colleague and leader, having been central to the ongoing development of the College and its facilities.



Dr. Regina Carlow, interim Dean of the College of Fine Arts

UNM Research and Creativity: Grand Challenges

As recently announced by President Garnett Stokes, UNM will soon launch our institutional “Grand Challenges Initiative” (GCI). Through this initiative, UNM will define some specific urgent challenges facing New Mexico that our resources as the state’s flagship research university can help to solve—and then commit to doing so. This effort will offer faculty, students, and others the opportunity to collaborate through interdisciplinary research and problem solving. We will launch this effort on Nov. 14 at 9 a.m. in SUB Ballroom C, with an Introduction to Grand Challenges followed by facilitated discussion to determine broad areas of inquiry. Interested? Attend, please, and bring your ideas for challenges facing New Mexico and how UNM can continue generating new knowledge and understanding for the social good.

UNM Mentoring Institute

Did you know UNM hosts one of the best events in the country for learning how better to mentor students, employees, and colleagues? Today at the SUB Ballrooms is the 2nd day of their [2018 conference](#), with a great lineup of speakers. Yesterday, Nita Singh Kaushal gave a terrific keynote address on mentoring women in science and engineering.



UNM First-Year Experience

The Higher Learning Commission notified President Stokes and UNM that our Quality Initiative, the University's "First Year in High Gear" effort to strengthen the first-year experience, has been [reviewed and approved](#) by HLC reviewers. This effort, which was initially undertaken in 2012, was the result of a collaboration of more than 200 participants who worked on committees, performed the self-study, or implemented changes across campus. Those changes helped students to persist (more than 80 percent of full-time beginning freshmen returned in 2016) and graduate sooner (the 4-year graduation rate reached 32.5 percent in 2017, more than double what it was in 2012). We [previously noted](#) that we had submitted a Quality Initiative report to the HLC at the end of August, which you can read [here](#).


Three members of that project will be sharing the story of UNM's success at the national Reinvention Collaboration conference this November in Arlington, VA: Sonia Gipson Rankin, assistant professor in the School of Law (and former associate dean in University College), Tim Schroeder, director of the STEM Collaborative Center, and Joe Suilmann, manager of university accreditation.

Ombuds for Faculty Workshop

There is an "Ombuds for Faculty" [workshop at noon today](#) titled, "Relationship Management: Humiliation and Apology," presented by Professor Jonathan Bolton. It will focus on "humiliation (what it is, what it involves, what it causes) and on apology (the elements of an effective apology, and how it can go wrong). The workshop runs from 12-2 p.m. and will be held in Dane Smith Hall, room 231.

Potential Opportunity in Santa Fe

UNM continues in dialogue with the City of Santa Fe regarding how we can play a central role in their efforts to redevelop the former campus of the Santa Fe University of Art & Design. This represents a once-in-a-generation opportunity to redevelop a prime 64-acre site near the heart of Santa Fe as a higher education-centered hub for creativity, design, high-tech innovation, and the fine arts. In the weeks ahead, I hope to name a faculty member to serve as part-time liaison to those efforts, helping to spearhead UNM's efforts there. If interested, please send a cover letter to provost@unm.edu by Nov. 15,



outlining your interest in this effort, how your background shows dynamic leadership for the common good, and why Santa Fe matters to you and to the University.

Richard L. Wood

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A PDF version of this weekly brief is available on the [Academic Affairs website](#). Your feedback and input are welcome at provost@unm.edu.