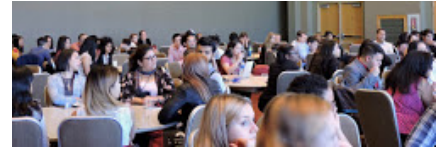


The Wednesday Communiqué

February 7, 2019



Students at the McNair Scholars conference hosted by UNM Student Affairs

Alongside the fine teaching, research, advising, mentoring, and creative work—and all the support work that allows those things to happen—there are a few big-picture matters that are center stage for UNM right now. On the research front, the Grand Challenges initiative has catalyzed exciting intellectual ferment among [strong cross-disciplinary teams](#). On the accreditation front, the “Assurance Argument” to the Higher Learning Commission is now final and available [here](#); the HLC visiting team will have three public forums related to the “[accreditation criteria](#)” scheduled on main campus on March 4-5 (times and locations are being finalized) and visits to UNM-Gallup and UNM-Taos on March 1. In Santa Fe, attention this week is on HB#2, the key funding bill in the House Appropriations & Finance Committee, as well as on minor capital requests and proposals for RPSPs (Research Projects & Special Projects). President Stokes, our capable Government Relations team, plus myself and others as needed are working hard to make the case that higher education institutions in the state must make up more of the fiscal ground lost over the last ten years. This session will partly determine whether we face further rescissions for next year (due to recent enrollment declines) or are able to re-invest more fully in key academic priorities.

Following the News in Santa Fe

If you’re following along with the latest news out of Santa Fe, the Government Relations team sends [regular updates](#) during the legislative session and you can follow specific bills via UNM’s [bill tracker](#).

Faculty Senate

All voting faculty are eligible to nominate colleagues for “at-large” members of the Faculty Senate; the Academic Freedom and Tenure Committee; and the Committee on Governance. These are vital dimensions of effective shared governance; to be effective their work relies on strong, thoughtful, and fair-minded faculty willing to serve and help govern the university in this way. Please consider nominating someone (or yourself if you are interested) via email (unmelect@unm.edu) by Wednesday, Feb. 20. Other deadlines apply during the year for nominations for Staff Council and for ASUNM and GPSA roles; staff and students should watch for those deadlines.

Research Allocations Committee: Call for Proposals

UNM voting faculty are invited to submit proposals for internal funding, not to exceed \$10,000 per proposal, with a proposal duration of 18 months from the receipt of funds. The proposal submission

guidelines are available at the [UNM RAC website](#). The proposals are to be [submitted online](#) beginning Feb. 1; the deadline is Feb. 15, 2019.

No Phishing Allowed

Last week I mentioned that a phishing scam was spamming campus inboxes with messages that appeared to come from me. The UNM Information Security and Privacy Office would like to highlight some additional resources to defend against phishing attacks (fraudulent emails) targeting the UNM community. If you're looking for general information, you can [find more here](#). Did you receive a suspicious email, or are you curious about current known attacks? Visit the [UNM Phish Bowl](#). If you would like to have Information Security and Privacy staff come and speak with your department or class, email Mark Orgeron (morgeron@unm.edu) to set up a training.

'Tis the Season of UNM Surveys

Faculty and staff will have recently received a number of survey response requests from the Office of the University Secretary, part of UNM's effort to do meaningful systematic evaluation of high-level administrators. I'm aware that this can feel burdensome, but do not want to eliminate the opportunity for evaluative input. Please note that, in each case, the first question will allow you to opt out of that particular survey if you feel you do not have adequate basis for input. New this year: if you fill out the survey or say you opt out, you should no longer receive reminders for that survey.

Many faculty and staff may also receive a survey regarding internship opportunities in your department or program (from Monica Kowal as Director of the Office of Community-Engaged Research & Learning, though the email message may appear to come from Alejandra Gallegos in this office). Please do respond to that survey if you are involved in such internships.

Life in NM

The Maxwell Museum of Anthropology, Tamarind Institute and the UNM Art Museum are [all opening new exhibitions](#) this Friday evening, Feb. 8. This is a great opportunity to visit and explore the rich cultural offerings available on UNM's campus. All three are free and open to the public.

Richard L. Wood

Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Professor of Sociology

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