

The Weekly Communiqué

March 22, 2019

As always, life is busy in Academic Affairs—as in units around the University. The recently completed legislative session provides new money for a number of UNM programs, and sufficient funding for an approximately 2% compensation increase on main campus (currently under discussion, and pending signature or veto by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham). The Legislature also provided additional new money for the University budget, but not enough to fully backfill the state cuts and enrollment drops of recent years and other urgent funding needs. The Budget Leadership Team will soon finalize a proposal for how to combine new funding, reserves, and rescissions to units to produce a viable budget for next year; that will go to the President and ultimately to the upcoming Budget Summit with the Board of Regents.

All UNM does in people's lives...yet more

There are hidden stories of amazing work all around UNM. Here's a [powerful story](#) about homelessness and passion and achievement—not to be missed. Dr. Richard White is Professor of Music (Tuba) in the UNM College of Fine Arts and the subject of a new feature film about his life, with origins in Freddy Gray's neighborhood in Baltimore. The story above shows CBS' interview with Dr. White, and the feature film will be screened on Thursday, April 4 at 2 p.m. in Keller Hall.

Executive Search Status

Searches for the Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs, Vice President for Equity & Inclusion, Senior Vice President for Finance & Administration, and President & CEO of the UNM Foundation are all advancing. Two finalists for provost have been announced, with visits to campus next week. James Paul Holloway will be on campus Monday and Tuesday (March 25-26), with three forums on Monday in SUB Ballroom A: the faculty forum from 9-9:50 a.m., staff forum from 10-10:50 a.m., and open forum from 3-3:50 p.m. The second finalist, Michael J. Benedik, will be visiting on Thursday and Friday (March 28-29), with three forums on Thursday in SUB Lobo A & B: a faculty forum from 9-9:50 a.m., a staff forum from 10-10:50 a.m., and an open forum from 3-3:50 p.m. I encourage you to participate and provide feedback via a survey that will be available on [the search webpage](#) within 72 hours after each candidate's visit.

United Academics of UNM

Regarding the petition filed by [United Academics at UNM](#) (UA-UNM), all related documents—including the petition, UNM's "employers response," and my initial message regarding unionization—are now available online at the [president's website](#). The legal documents are by definition very legally-framed and

should be read with that understanding. In the forums mentioned in my previous communique, UNM leadership hopes to have a thoughtful conversation with faculty, including those involved in the UA-UNM petition, about what faculty unionization would look like and the implications of any particular approach to unionization. My view: a useful dialogue will require a thoughtful approach and creative solution-finding on all sides. More to come.

Search for Interim Associate Provost for Faculty Development

The Office of Academic Affairs urges full professors with dedication to peer development to strongly consider applying for the Interim Associate Provost for Faculty Development position. This is a .50 FTE position with a three-month appointment, which may be renewed, until the Provost launches a search for the permanent position. Applications can be submitted, no later than March 27, 2019, to Jennifer Love, Search Coordinator, at jenlov22@unm.edu.

General Education at UNM

Academic Affairs General Education Faculty Fellows will be presenting ideas this week for integrating Innovation into courses. Please join Peter Lisignoli, Caleb Richardson, Erik Erhardt, and John Burke today (Friday), March 22, 3-4:30 p.m. in the Roberts Room. The presentations will also be available via Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/7243799520>. To strengthen general education courses, particularly high enrollment courses, Academic Affairs is soliciting proposals for enhancement of graduate assistant/teaching assistant roles in undergraduate student support. Please see the call for proposals posted [here](#).

Outstanding Staff Awards

The Provost's Committee for Staff and the Provost's Committee for Advising are preparing for the annual Outstanding Staff Awards in May. There are nine awards in total. To nominate staff, please submit a nomination form between now and March 29 at 5 p.m. by visiting: <http://pcs.unm.edu/outstanding-staff-workgroup.html>. To nominate an outstanding advisor, please submit a nomination form between March 25 and April 15 by visiting: <http://advisement.unm.edu/resources/professional-development/advising-awards.html>. The two committees will be hosting a shared Provost's Outstanding Staff Awards ceremony on Wednesday, May 15 from 3:30-4:15 p.m. in the George Pearl Hall Auditorium. Immediately following the awards ceremony will be a reception in the George Pearl Hall Gallery.

KUNM Fundraiser

I invite all faculty, staff, and retirees to join colleagues in volunteering to answer phones KUNM's Spring 2019 Fundraiser, running from Saturday, March 23 through Friday, March 29. The [signup page](#) allows you

to see which shifts are still available before signing up (they always need extra help on Thursday and Friday).

The Federal Budget Process

The Trump administration revealed their \$4.7 trillion budget request early last week. While many of you have voiced concerns about what you are seeing and the impacts it could have on your research funding and other programs, I want to clarify that this proposal will likely not go much further. The release of the President's budget begins the actual development of a federal budget for the fiscal year that begins October 1. It's more likely Congress will build their own budget. It will now be up to the many committees of the Congress to turn proposals into legislative language, and eventually law.

Health Sciences Center Community Orchestra

This Friday, (March 22) beginning at 7:30 p.m. you can see the Health Sciences Center Orchestra perform music by Antonín Dvořák and Gabriel Fauré at Keller Hall in the UNM Center for the Arts. The HSCO is comprised of students, staff, faculty, and community members of UNM's Health Sciences Center. You can find more information here: <https://finearts.unm.edu/arts-in-medicine/>. The show is free and open to the public.

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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.