



# The Weekly Communiqué

**March 28, 2019**

As many know, in the deliberations by the search committee and President Stokes for a new Provost and EVP for Academic Affairs at UNM, I was not selected as a finalist. While I am of course disappointed in that outcome, I recognize that presidents and search committees at that level face difficult choices—and I trust that the campus community will unify strongly in support of the new provost upon her or his arrival. You can follow that search, as well as the searches for the Senior VP for Finance & Administration and the VP for Equity and Inclusion [here](#). Please attend the Open Forum for today's candidate from 3-3:50 p.m. in the SUB, Lobo A & B. All students, faculty, staff, and community members are welcome at the Open Forum. Your voice through the feedback process will flow into final decision-making, so I encourage you to complete a [survey](#).

## **My Plans**

Among the better things I have done in my time in Academic Affairs has been to help constitute a terrific team of academic leaders there. They, the staff in Academic Affairs and its subunits, and the deans will provide professionalism and continuity during the upcoming transition. One of those is Dr. Barbara Rodriguez, who is currently serving as Interim Senior Vice Provost. She is a natural leader in that role and will continue to serve there at least during the transition to a new provost. Given the twin commitments to excellence and diversity that have driven my tenure in Academic Affairs—and given Dr. Rodriguez' excellence in the role—it is the right and equitable choice. I am confident it is also the right choice for me and for the incoming Provost. I will finish my role as Interim Provost on June 30, 2019 and return full time to the faculty as a teacher, researcher, and writer in the Department of Sociology.

## **Faculty Unionization**

Given my term-limited status in the interim provost role, I have stepped out of an active role in the negotiations with United Academics at UNM. But UNM is actively engaged in mediated conversations with the legal representatives of the faculty seeking unionization, regarding the terms and timeline of a potential election. The President's website has a page devoted to the ongoing conversation, and you can find more information here: <https://president.unm.edu/faculty-unionization/>.

## **Institutional Review Board Mandate**

Effective Jan. 21, 2019, institutions that hold a federal wide assurance (FWA) with the U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services are required to be in compliance with the revised federal human research regulations (Common Rule), also referred to as the 2018 Requirements. UNM OIRB's transition plan can be found [here](#). Highlights of the 2018 Requirements include informed consent and elimination of the

requirement for continuing review of projects determined to be minimal risk. All human research is subjected to post approval monitoring (PAM) such as random audits, directed self-assessments, consent form reviews, and administrative check-in by OIRB staff for the University to ensure that research is being conducted in accordance with IRB approval and high ethical standards. The random audits are preventative and any project involving human participants or otherwise subject to regulations and policies that govern such research, i.e. research involving protected health information, are subject to random audits and may be audited under the new mandate.

### **Changes to National Science Foundation Guidelines**

Over the course of 2018, NSF has been tightening up their guidelines in multiple areas. As a reminder, NSF conflict of interest policies require that all conflicts of interest for each award be managed, reduced or eliminated prior to the expenditure of the award funds. Disclosure requirements apply to the PI/PD, co-PI/co-PDs, and any other person identified on the proposed project who is responsible for the design, conduct, or reporting of research or educational activities funded or proposed for funding by NSF.

### **A little fun from the Chronicle of Higher Education**

Do not miss the video at the link below, from the CHE Daily Briefing: “Writing a dissertation is hard enough. But translating years of research into interpretive dance—that’s almost out of this world. Fortunately some scientists are up for the challenge. Every year the American Association for the Advancement of Science and Science magazine hold the ‘Dance Your Ph.D.’ contest, in which scientists interpret their research as dance...This year’s winner wrote an 11-minute [swing-dance musical](#) about electrons. Senarath Yapa told NPR: ‘If you’re willing to stand up and defend some crazy obscure research topic’ that is the focus of your life’s work, ‘then there’s probably something in you that wants to dance.’ The musical is otherworldly, almost dancing with the stars.”

### **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](mailto:provost@unm.edu).