



The Weekly Communiqué

April 10, 2019

At the Budget Summit, during yesterday's meeting of the Board of Regents, the recommendations of the Budget Leadership Team were presented to the Regents. In light of new information received only this week from the Higher Education Department, however, the Board postponed a vote on a final budget pending further analysis and deliberation. Among the areas being explored are the costs of an additional increase in compensation for staff and faculty and what the impact of such costs would be on other areas of our work (teaching and research, jobs, organizational structure, tuition and fees, etc.). We think decisions will likely be made at a Special Meeting of the Board of Regents, to be scheduled.

“Denim Day” on April 24

At this week's UNM Board of Regents meeting, Student Regent Melissa Henry and two colleagues asked that we all join them in recognizing “Denim Day” on April 24. Denim Day invites people to wear denim to raise awareness about rape and sexual assault. So please feel free to participate in this cause by wearing denim that Wednesday—I'll be breaking out my ol' blue jeans and denim jacket for sure! For more information, go to: denimdayinfo.org. Let's eliminate rape and sexual assault at UNM.

Unionization

The Committee on Governance of the UNM faculty, the United Academics of UNM, and the University will be hosting forums, meetings, or other events in coming weeks to foster dialogue regarding the unionization effort and its impact at the university. Please watch the [President's website](#), the [UA-UNM website](#) and the [CoG website](#) for further information.

Faculty Forum this Friday: Research Security Dialogue

Recent federal briefings at UNM have raised a series of issues regarding both cyber-based and personal penetrations of the academic research community in the United States by foreign entities. This issue now extends beyond military- and security-related technology and science. The FBI has identified threats broadly at the level of the covert stealing, capture, or mis-direction (including within the scientific journal review process) of intellectual property. In light of those concerns, the Office of the Provost and the Faculty Senate Research Policy Committee want to engage faculty in thoughtful discussion regarding how UNM should best balance security concerns with critical norms around the free exchange of scientific knowledge and international collaboration. Faculty in STEM disciplines in which these matters are most relevant are strongly encouraged to attend, as well as any other faculty or staff whose work involves this terrain. The forum will be held **Friday, April 12, 1:30-3:15 p.m. in Dane Smith Hall, Room 123.**

Deans Leaving Architecture & Planning and Education

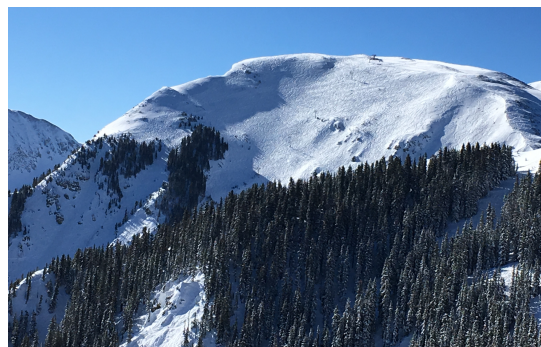
[Dean Geraldine Forbes](#) has announced that she will step down this summer as dean of the UNM School of Architecture & Planning after 14 years of distinguished service, including five years as chair of her department, and nine years [serving as dean](#), beginning in 2010. She will remain on the SA+P faculty in the coming year; she serves also as the Chancellor of the ACSA College of Distinguished Professors. [Dean Hector Ochoa](#) has announced that he will step down this summer as dean of the UNM College of Education after five years, during which he helped revitalize the College's research profile. Dean Ochoa was named the new provost of San Diego State University, beginning July 2. The Office of the Provost is currently surveying the staff and faculty in SA+P and CoE regarding the future of the School/College and the qualifications needed in an interim dean at this juncture.

UNM-Taos Student Receives Top Honors

Please join me in congratulating Jennifer Longo on her recent achievements: A student at UNM-Taos, Jennifer was recently one of only 20 students named to the All-USA Academic Team, an honor recognizing outstanding intellectual achievement, leadership, and community engagement among students attending associate degree-granting institutions. She was also the sole awardee from New Mexico of the 2019 New Century Transfer Pathway Scholar award, similarly recognizing academic accomplishments and leadership activities. Congratulations, Jennifer!

Life in New Mexico

Life is good in our fine state. A few quick glimpses here: At right, the amazing Mavis Staples singing at the Isleta Pueblo entertainment venue earlier this month. Bottom-left: the view from the top of the Jemez Mountains out over the Rio Grande Valley with the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in the distance (note the fire-cleared hills in the foreground from the [Cerro Grande Fire](#) in May 2000). Bottom-right: the iconic Kachina Peak, 12,481 feet above sea level in northern New Mexico.





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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.