

Academic Dispatch

January 15, 2020

Provost Leadership Team

I'm pleased to announce changes to the Provost Office academic affairs team, with both new colleagues joining our team and new areas of focus for other members of the team.

The Provost Office is focused on the success of the full academic enterprise of UNM, spanning all the schools and colleges of the Albuquerque campus as well as our branch campuses around the state. Because of the central role of academic affairs in touching all of the many missions of the university, we work with all the schools and colleges, student affairs, faculty governance, research office, the Division of Equity and Inclusion, Staff Council, HSC, the student assemblies, and the many other component parts of the university. Academic Affairs is organized to ensure that we never lose sight of students, faculty, and staff as the creative drivers of our academic enterprise, because universities are fundamentally human focused, with the development of the human mind and human knowledge as our core work.

The full Provost Leadership Team and our advisors comprise a group of many skilled and dedicated professionals who contribute their expertise to the success of UNM. The full team is described on the [Provost Office website](#), but within this team I will today highlight those who carry the title of provost.

Newest to our team is Professor William Stanley, who, I am thrilled to report, has joined our team effective January 1, 2020 in the role of Associate Provost for Faculty Success. Bill Stanley is a professor of political science whose work focuses on understanding patterns of political violence and its prevention, especially in Central America. Bill will oversee a number of units and activities that help to ensure the continued development and success of our faculty as intellectual leaders who grow the wealth of human knowledge, creating through their work the new ideas that serve the state, nation, and world. These activities will range from organizing orientation for new faculty, conducting the chair's school to help us develop the academic leaders who are the present and future of UNM, and helping to better organize the awards and recognition programs of the university. Professor Stanley has been with UNM since 1990, and we are excited to have his extensive experience on our faculty, his experience as a department chair and director of the interdisciplinary program, as well as his deep understanding of faculty evaluation and motivation, deployed for the benefit of our faculty. The Faculty Development Council, whose members advised me on the evaluation of a number of excellent



candidates for the associate provost role, extolled his background and skills. I am grateful to the search advisory committee who also helped vet and evaluate these candidates.

I'm also pleased to report on the newly revised title for Associate Professor Pamela Cheek, whose role has been recast as the Associate Provost for Student Success, effective January 1, 2020. Over the last two years, Dr. Cheek has been centrally important to UNM's accreditation process, as well as curriculum management and assessment processes. Her work to revise the program review process has provided UNM with an approach to assessing academic programs that provides both the programs and the provost office with useful and actionable information for understanding and improvement. Associate Provost Cheek will continue this work and provide a provost office focus on student success, ensuring that all Lobos have the greatest opportunity to translate their efforts and talents into intellectual growth and accomplishment. Dr. Cheek is an associate professor of French. A scholar of early modern European sexuality and literary history, she just published "Heroines and Local Girls: The Transnational Emergence of Women's Writing in the Long Eighteenth Century." Professor Cheek also brings a wealth of program leadership and governance experience to the office. A local practice employed by more than one colleague I've met at UNM is, when faced with a thorny problem, to ask WWPCD (What Would Pamela Cheek Do?).



Senior Vice Provost and Professor of Speech and Hearing Barbara Rodriguez is an accomplished researcher focused on bilingual language acquisition and bilingual assessment. She has studied language and literacy development in bilingual children and explores the cultural and environmental influences on language development. As senior vice provost, Dr. Rodriguez is primarily in charge of all faculty affairs, including hiring, tenure, and promotion processes. Dr. Rodriguez acts on behalf of the provost in my absence. Dr. Rodriguez also has the most impressive collection of children's books in the provost office.



One change of note that has been made in the appointment of the senior and associate provosts, is that these positions are, like other senior academic leadership, appointments made for definite terms of up to five years. I believe that transition in academic leadership is important, so these appointments are made with no guarantee of renewal and with expected turnover after two terms of service.

Faculty Unionization Update

UNM faculty, excepting those in HSC and certain specific faculty ranks and roles, voted in October to be represented by [United Academics of UNM \(UA-UNM\)](#). This vote makes UA-UNM the sole and exclusive representative of the faculty over matters of compensation, benefits, and the terms and conditions of employment as we subsequently define them in a collective bargaining process. While NM law and good manners requires that the details of the bargaining sessions be kept confidential – an essential practice as the give and take of negotiations proceeds – we will keep the UNM community informed to the extent practicable on the [Provost Office faculty union webpage](#). My hope is that we will be able to quickly and collaboratively establish the first collective bargaining agreement between UNM and UA-UNM before this summer. This is an ambitious goal, but it is to our advantage to create certainty around this, while at the same time we must do so in a way that protects the long-term shared interests of all of UNM's many stakeholders. With this goal in mind, UNM and UA-UNM have just this week conducted their first bargaining session.

I'm looking forward to working with representatives of UA-UNM on our joint goals of supporting faculty in their essential work in scholarship, research, creative production, teaching, and service to New Mexican communities.

Annual Reviews of Senior Administrators

At this time of year, under the leadership of UNM faculty governance, the university conducts a number of survey evaluations of senior academic leaders. Surveys on the deans are going out now to voting faculty in their schools and colleges, and surveys on the academic vice presidents will go out shortly. I will review the results of these surveys carefully, and discuss them with each dean and vice president. The solicitation for feedback on my role as provost will go out in a few weeks, and I have asked that it be sent to all faculty, staff and students. I will discuss the results of your feedback with President Stokes and my entire leadership team, and I will reflect on your feedback in future editions of the Academic Dispatch. Thanks for taking the time to provide your thoughts on the academic leadership of UNM.

James Paul Holloway

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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