



Memorandum of Understanding
among
The UNM Office of the Provost,
The UNM College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences, and
The UNM Press

Purpose:

This Memorandum of Understanding is entered into by the University of New Mexico Office of the Provost, the University of New Mexico College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences and the University of New Mexico Press with two goals. The first is to provide a sustainable business model for the Press that will enable it to flourish and continue its important publishing role for the University and the State of New Mexico. The second is to solve the problem of lack of space for collections in the College of University Libraries & Learning Services. Both of these goals can be achieved by integrating the Press into the College, with positive results for both the Press and the College.

Background:

The University of New Mexico Press has a long and distinguished record of service to the University and the State, and it is the collective intention of all parties to this document to continue that role. Established in 1929, the Press plays a vital role in preserving the cultures, languages, and histories of New Mexico and the Southwest. Its purpose is to advance and disseminate knowledge through the publication of books and electronic media, educate present and future generations, and further the mission of the University of New Mexico, supporting research, education, and community service. The Press' editorial program includes social and cultural anthropology; archaeology of the Americas; art, architecture, and photography; Chicano/a studies; frontier history; legal studies, especially water issues; American literature; Latin American studies; Native studies; and books that deal with important aspects of Southwest or Rocky Mountain states, including natural history and land grant studies. With 50 new titles published annually, the Press is the largest book publisher in the state of New Mexico and can truly be described as the State's press.

The University Library (now the College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences) dates from the foundation of the University. It has long been recognized that the Library is the heart of the university and that remains true to this day. Serving more than 1.5 million visitors annually in four libraries, and providing virtual access to many millions of electronic journals and books, the Library is the largest library in the state. That special mission to serve the state parallels the Press' similar mission, and includes serving as the largest source for interlibrary loan in the state, providing a significant number of books and journals to NM libraries. The Library hosts the LIBROS consortium of 16 NM academic libraries to provide them with a cloud-based online catalog. Helping NM cultural heritage institutions, such as museums, libraries, and historical societies the library has created a statewide digital library, [New Mexico Digital Collections](#), and a digital publishing [platform](#) that can be extended statewide, and includes 14 journals, most of which are Open Access. The Library's physical collections continue to grow with well over 3 million volumes, but there is no more space for new items. The shelves are full. Not

only is this an immediate problem for storage and access of materials, but it severely limits the Library's ability to repurpose space to better serve student learning and engagement. The need for high-density storage has long been recognized, but has never been realized.

This organizational move makes sense for all parties, including the University and the State. For the Press, the most visible benefit would be the removal of its accumulated debt. A carefully formulated plan will guide the Press to deficit-free sustainability. At the center of that plan is the adoption of a Distribution Service to cover fulfillment, storage, customer service, accounting, and royalty management. In making this move the Press will join 80% of its peers who have already done so. This will mean closing the Press facility on South Campus, but will also allow the Library to establish a high-density storage facility on South Campus. This will enable the Library to maintain the integrity and growth of its physical collections of books and journals and continue to make them available to faculty, students and researchers, across the state. The savings for the Press will be significant and make an important contribution to balancing its budget. There are other savings for the Press implicit in this organizational arrangement, such as IT and HR support from the College, but of more significance to this plan are development support and digital initiatives. The Press has never had a development officer to direct fundraising. Under this arrangement the College Director of Development will take on a major fundraising effort to create a significant endowment for the Press. Similarly, the Press will be acknowledged as a very high legislative priority (2019-2020) to establish a permanent funding source.

This will be a very significant step in making the Press sustainable. The Library's department of Digital Initiatives & Scholarly Communication holds great promise for the Press in establishing collaborative efforts. The Press has never had the capacity to experiment in a significant way in exploring the possibilities for new digital formats. Together the Press and the Library can do so. In addition, the Library is assisting in digitizing the entire backlist of Press books and looks forward to Press involvement in the 14 journals hosted on the Library's digital platform. The Press brings deep editorial experience and knowledge that will be of great assistance as the College helps to coordinate University efforts to create open textbooks that will save students significant sums of money. For the first time ever, the Director of the Press will be a member of the faculty, a newly created position in the College. This will give the Press Director added status, but also an expanded role in scholarly publication and communication campus wide. While the new Director will naturally be expected to concentrate on bringing the Press to sustainability, there will be opportunities, particularly in collaboration with the Library's Director of Digital Initiatives & Scholarly Communication, to begin a coordinated effort across campus to align various publishing efforts to create synergies and partnerships. It is envisioned that in time, the Press Director will be a key player in the development of UNM's approach to scholarly communication in its many forms and facets as we chart our way through the complexities of the digital future.

The Report on the Feasibility of Integrating the University of New Mexico Press within the University Libraries (Darrin Pratt and Michael Spooner), July 17, 2017, will serve as a detailed resource to integrating the Press into the College. It provides a roadmap to putting the Press on a firm foundation for the future. The ultimate goal is to enable the Press to succeed without any deficit.

Responsibilities:

The following specific actions will be undertaken:

1. A national faculty search for Director of the Press will be launched immediately with the intention of the Director beginning on July 1, 2018.
2. Funding support of \$350,000 annually will be distributed to the College to be used for the high-density storage facility and associated needs of the Press under the discretion of the dean.

3. The University will make the Press a legislative priority for 2019-2020 (and subsequent years as needed) for new Research and Public Services Projects funding from the NM Legislature. The College, working closely with the Office of Government & Community Relations and the Press, will coordinate a concerted effort of interested individuals to convince key legislators of the importance of the Press to the State.
4. The Press will revitalize the Friends of the UNM Press (or create a similar organization) and initiate a comprehensive fundraising campaign coordinated by the College's development officer. The goal will be to establish a significant endowment and raise other spendable funds.

With the transfer of the Press warehouse functions to a Distribution Service, several related actions will be taken:

5. The space currently occupied by the Press at 1312 Basehart SE will be vacated.
6. The building at 1009 Bradbury SE will be converted to high-density storage use for the University Libraries. During an interim period of several years until the Library completely fills the warehouse, Academic Affairs will be able to use some of the space for its storage needs on a negotiated basis.
7. The costs associated with the conversion of the storage facility is to be determined, however a commitment has been made from Academic Affairs and Administration to cover these costs. A temporary facility may be needed for the Press inventory during the transition of vacating the current warehouse to a distribution center. Resources will also be provided to cover these costs if necessary.

With the signing of this MOU, the reporting line for the Press will be transferred to the Dean of the College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences, effective March 1, 2018.

Signed by:

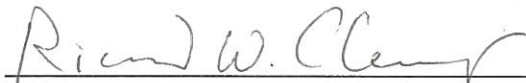
For the Office of the Provost



Richard Wood, Interim Provost & Executive Vice President
for Academic Affairs

2 Feb 2018
Date

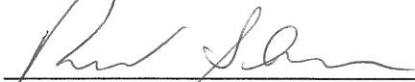
For the College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences



Richard W. Clement, Dean

2/2/18
Date

For the UNM Press



Richard Schuetz, Interim Director

2/2/2018
Date

