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Wednesday Communiqué, 10/31/2012

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WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

October 31, 2012

Don't forget to vote by Tuesday November 6, 2012 (and make sure to vote on Bonds B & C).

UNM 2020: As we continue to engage in the UNM 2020 planning exercise, I encourage you to look over the UCAP report (<http://provost.unm.edu/academic-planning-2012.html>). The document was produced by a large UNM representative committee during the last Academic year. Some of the questions that I have posed periodically in this communiqué and on my blog were debated and answered in that document. Another useful document may be the one titled *State of Academic Affairs* found at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communiqué/index.html>. Do not forget to join the conversation about UNM 2020 at: <http://unm2020.ideascale.com/>

Change is Hardest in the Middle: As we continue to debate our Academic priorities, our budget models, our ever expanding mission, I am always reminded how important but difficult it is to manage change. Professor Kanter has studied the subject and stated Kanter's law: "Everything can look like a failure in the middle." A recent article summarizes her thoughts on when to persist, and when to quit pushing for change. (<http://blogs.hbr.org/kanter/2012/10/12-guidelines-for-deciding-whe.html>).

Today's Faculty: The 2010-2011 Higher Education Research Institute Faculty Survey was recently released (<http://www.heri.ucla.edu/>). The report indicates that the faculty "continue to experience multiple sources of work-life stress, and those at public institutions cited financial concerns as a top source over the last two years." More alarming, however, is that this "is the first year in which stress related to economic issues, such as institutional budget cuts and personal finances, rivaled top sources of stress (self-imposed expectations and lack of personal time) from past surveys. The report also examines the role of part-time faculty on campus, and shows that many feel they lack access to key institutional resources, such as office space and a computer provided by their institution. On the teaching front, more faculty are using student-centered teaching methods, such as cooperative learning and student presentations, though extensive lecturing is still a common practice." Does this report reflect our top faculty concerns? Or do we have other issues? What might we do to confront them?

The Scoop on MOOCs: A recent post in the Humanities, Arts, Science, and Technology Advanced Collaboratory provides a great resource for understanding MOOCs (<http://hastac.org/blogs/superadmin/2012/10/05/hastac-guide-moocs>). The post provides more information for humanities colleagues who may be interested in (or scared of) MOOCs.

Capital Planning: How do we build our campus physical infrastructure? There are three basic sources of funding for capital projects at UNM. The first is from funds generated by state bonds (such as Bonds B and C this year) that are paid for by state citizens. The second is from institutional bonds that are usually paid for by student fees. The third source of funding is from private donations. As we plan for the next ten years of buildings and renewals, we need to balance our needs against the availability of funds from those three sources.

VPRED Opening: UNM invites nominations and applications for the position of Vice President of Research and Economic Development (VPRED). This position is an excellent opportunity for a visionary leader for the scientific and creative potential of a diverse and highly motivated faculty. The VPRED also plays a vital role in capitalizing on the intellectual wealth and economic impact of the UNM Main/Branch research enterprise, using it as a driver for the overall enhancement of the institution and the state (unmjobs.unm.edu/applicants/Central?quickFind=70125).

Provost & Executive Vice-President for Academic Affairs

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communiqué/index.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at: provost@unm.edu or at the electronic town hall: <http://connectu.unm.edu/>. Please also