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Wednesday Communiqué, 2/15/2012

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WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

February 15, 2012

Budgeting and the 2012 Legislative Session: The 2012 Legislative Session will end at noon on February 16, 2012. House Bill 2 contains an I&G budget recommendation for the UNM Main Campus at \$173,028,792 (a 7.5% increase from the FY12 base), and a Health Sciences Center budget recommendation at \$58,504,100 (a 2.7% increase from the FY12 base). In these bills, there will be no tuition credit and they recommend a reverse in the ERB Swap of 1.75% which means recovery of the FY12 1.75% take home pay reduction. As of February 14, 2012, the Senate passed HB 2 and the House concurred. The Bill then will make it to the Governor's desk where she has until March 7, 2012 to sign it or veto all or parts of it.

James Ellis Talk: If you missed the second talk in our academic affairs lecture series titled, "Creating the Next Generation of Leaders" you may view it at:

<http://mtsm mediasite.unm.edu/unm/SilverlightPlayer/Default.aspx?peid=da5483aeec81452392a766dd4dd4acd7>.

College Cost & Access: Dr. Donald Randel, the first speaker in our academic affairs lecture series, intrigued me with regard to the similarity between the rise in college costs and the cost of dental services. As I began to research this topic, I came across articles that explain the rise in college costs (e.g. <http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/2010/11/22/college-costs-the-sequel/?ref=global>). Additionally, I am reading the book, "Why Does College Cost So Much?" by Robert B. Archibald and David H. Feldman, as well as some of the articles found on Feldman's site, (<http://wmpeople.wm.edu/site/page/dhfeld>) to better understand some of the cost drivers in higher education and the complex relationships between access, cost, and quality as described by the Iron Triangle of Higher Education. In my view, the most disturbing information on this topic is the February 10, 2012 New York Times article that discusses how the education gap continues to grow between rich and poor by Sean F. Reardon, a Stanford University sociologist. As stated in the article, "We have moved from a society in the 1950s and 1960s, in which race was more consequential than family income, to one today in which family income appears more determinative of educational success than race." Professor Reardon is the author of a study that found that the gap in standardized test scores between affluent and low-income students had grown by about 40 percent since the 1960s, and is now double the testing gap between blacks and whites.

Distinguished Professor Lecture/Performance Series: Please join us for the second event of this series which will be a lecture by Distinguished Professor Virginia Scharff titled, "The Women Jefferson Loved." For more information regarding this event please visit: <http://provost.unm.edu/documents/distinguished-professor-flyer-scharff.pdf>.

Tomorrow's Professor: I recently became aware of the resource, "Tomorrow's Professor Mailing List" (see <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/cgi-bin/tomprof/postings.php>). UNM's own Dr's Kate Kraus & Sarita Vargas called my attention to an excellent article titled, "Dysfunctional Illusions of Rigor" which may be found at the web site under the links: <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/tomprof/posting.php?ID=1058> (Parts 1 & 2 minus references) <http://cgi.stanford.edu/~dept-ctl/tomprof/posting.php?ID=1059> (Part 2 + references).

Career Advice: I have always learned more from my mistakes than from my successes. In the same spirit, I like to recommend to my students articles on how to fail in research and in life. A favorite is the one by Patterson, "How to Have a Bad Career in Research/Academia," which can be found at: <http://www.cs.berkeley.edu/~pattsrn/talks/nontech.html>. Another is Hamming's talk, "You and Your Research," which can be found at, <http://www.paulgraham.com/hamming.html>.

UNM Art Museum: Founded in the early 1960s, the UNM Art Museum is one of America's leading collegiate art museums. The UNM Art Museum is a leader for innovative inter-disciplinary learning in which the exhibitions have provided opportunities across many disciplines including African American studies, the departments of French, German, Art and Art History, Education, Creative Writing, Literature, Art and Ecology, American History, Theatre, Music, and Dance, and the School of Architecture. Please stop by the UNM Art Museum to learn more of this UNM resource.

A PDF version of this communiqué is available at: <http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>. Your feedback and input are welcome at: provost@unm.edu.

Sincerely, Chaouki Abdallah, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs