

3-27-2013

Wednesday Communiqué, 3/27/2013

Chaouki Abdallah

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/provost_publications

Recommended Citation

Abdallah, Chaouki. "Wednesday Communiqué, 3/27/2013." (2013). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/provost_publications/53

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the Provost/EVP for Academic Affairs at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications of the Provost's Office by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact disc@unm.edu.



THE UNIVERSITY of NEW MEXICO | Office of the Provost



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

March 27, 2013

Teachers can motivate students only if they themselves are motivated. They can make students feel valued and secure only if they feel valued and secure; they can foster enthusiasm for learning in students only if they are enthusiastic about teaching. The school culture can make or break a teacher in the same way that the classroom culture can support or undermine students' efforts to learn.

—Deborah Stipek, *Motivation to Learn: From Theory to Practice*

What Counts and What Should be Counted: I am often reminded these days of the 1968 Robert Kennedy speech at the University of Kansas (<http://www.jfklibrary.org/Research/Research-Aids/Ready-Reference/RFK-Speeches/Remarks-of-Robert-F-Kennedy-at-the-University-of-Kansas-March-18-1968.aspx>). That speech made the case that not everything that is counted should count in relation to the Gross National Product. In higher education we seem to focus on what we can count, such as graduation rates and the cost of tuition, versus being able to measure what our students have learned and the value of a college degree. In our discussions about Responsibility Centered Management (RCM), we have focused our initial discussions on our values and postponed counting budgets and subsidies until recently. We have just started to model the various budget scenarios and models and will continue to do so for another month or so.

How Many Hours to Graduate? The minimum number of credit hours required to earn a degree at UNM is 128. Most other universities require only 120 hours. More importantly, however, our students earn somewhere between 11% to more than 30% of credit hours beyond the minimum required, and attempt even more. While students enrolling in more than one major account for some of this increase—and recent research argues that students enrolled in double majors benefit tremendously from their experience (<http://chronicle.com/article/Double-Majors-Produce-Dynamic/137917/>)—many of our students attempt too many hours within a single major. As we learn what causes our students to attempt more hours than needed (financial need, advising, family concerns, academic difficulties) we can reduce the number of extra hours and save students time and money. If we can, it is important to keep in mind that our intent is not to limit choice or hinder students' desire to learn, but rather, at a time of shrinking resources and increasing tuition costs, to provide the shortest path for our students to graduate.

The First-Sale Doctrine: A recent ruling by the Supreme Court affirmed the first-sale doctrine for books purchased overseas. As reported recently, “the court ruled, 6 to 3, on Tuesday that the so-called first-sale doctrine protects the buyers of copyrighted works even if those works were legally manufactured outside the United States. Library groups celebrated the decision as "a total victory" for library users and others who share or resell copyrighted products. But publishers said the ruling would have "significant ramifications" for creators of copyrighted works and would discourage global trade.” The decision will have implications for our book purchases, but a reverse decision could have complicated the sale of second-hand foreign cars. More can be found at <http://chronicle.com/article/In-Win-for-Libraries-Over/137999/>.

Review of the Provost and other Academic Administrators: The deans and senior academic administrators, including myself, have been reviewed by faculty and staff. In future communiqués, I will address some of the feedback I received (both positive and negative) and will post the summary of my evaluation as I did last year.

The Geography of Happiness: At least according to one measure, New Mexico ranks as the 16th happiest state in the nation, and Santa Fe as the 26th happiest city:
<http://www.uvm.edu/storylab/share/papers/mitchell2013a>

[/AppendixB.html](#).

Finalists Selected for the position of Dean, Honors and University Colleges: After a nationwide search, I am pleased to announce the selection of four finalists for the position of Dean, Honors and University Colleges. The four finalists are: Keith Garbutt, dean of the Honors College, West Virginia University; Catherine (Kate) Krause, dean, Honors and University Colleges, University of New Mexico; Greg Lanier, director, University Honors Program, University of West Florida; and Marjean Purinton, associate dean, University Honors College, Texas Tech University. Dean Mark Peceny and the search committee have done an excellent job identifying these finalists from a broad pool of candidates, and I look forward to their visits to campus. Each visit will include an open forum, during which the finalists will speak, and members of the UNM community will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback to the search committee. I encourage you to attend these important events, which will be held in April. Additional information about the on-campus interviews will be announced soon.

Chaouki Abdallah

Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

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 or at the electronic town hall:

<http://connectu.unm.edu/>. Please also see the Provost’s Blog at

<http://provost.unm.edu/communique/index.html>