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Wednesday Communiqué, 2/8/2012

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WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

February 8, 2012

Our Second Academic Planning Series Speaker: On Friday, February 10 at 3:00 PM, UNM alum Mr. James G. Ellis will be on campus to give the second lecture in our academic planning lecture series titled, “Creating the Next Generation of Leaders.” Mr. Ellis is the Dean of the University of Southern California (USC) Marshall School of Business and holder of the Robert R. Dockson Dean’s Chair in Business Administration. He holds an M.B.A. from the Harvard Business School and a B.B.A. from the University of New Mexico. The lecture will be held in the Science & Mathematics Learning Center auditorium followed by a public reception. The full press release is at: <http://news.unm.edu/2012/01/unm-hosts-second-lecture-tied-to-academic-planning-efforts/>.

Budget Time: The New Mexico Legislature and the Executive Branch are nearing a decision on the state budget and higher education allocations. The Legislative Session ends on February 16 and the appropriations to state institutions will be finalized by March 12.

On March 23, President Schmidly will deliver the FY 13 budget recommendation to the Board of Regents. The final FY 13 UNM Budget will be approved on April 27.

In the meantime, many campus constituents (students, faculty, staff, and administrators) and BOR committees (such as the Academic/Student Affairs & Research and Finance & Facilities Committees) are engaged in budget planning discussions. For up-to-date information, see <http://www.unm.edu/~budget/>.

College Costs: Does the quality of education have to conflict with access and affordability? President Obama, in his 2012 State of the Union address and following speeches, made the point that colleges need to keep the cost of higher education in check, while support from the states is being reduced. In a 2008 report titled “The Iron Triangle,” this issue is discussed in detail (http://www.highereducation.org/reports/iron_triangle/index.shtml) and the Secretary of Education had an article titled “Rethinking Higher Education: Beyond the Iron Triangle” at: <http://agb.org/trusteeship/2009/septemberoctober/rethinking-higher-education-beyond-iron-triangle>. Finally, one proposal to break the iron triangle is proposed at: http://www.changemag.org/Archives/Back_Issues/March-April_2009/full-iron-triangle.html.

On Teaching: I would like to encourage all of you to support the teaching and learning enterprise at UNM by attending the 7th Annual Success in the Classroom: Sharing Practices that Work conference, which takes place at the SUB on Wednesday, February 15. This event is hosted by OSET with sponsorship from many units and features presentations by faculty and graduate students about innovations and challenges in teaching and assessment. The program is linked at <http://oset.unm.edu/Successintheclassroom.html> and includes presentations from instructors in nearly every college as well as a luncheon keynote address titled “A Scholarly Approach to Science Education: Key Tools for Transformation at a Critical Time Nationally,” by Dr. Noah Finkelstein, the Director of Integrating STEM Education for CU, at the University of Colorado.

Calling all Fellows: The Provost’s Office has begun an effort to compile and then highlight information about our faculty members’ accomplishments. We have requested from the Deans information about faculty honors such as fellowships in professional societies and/or prestigious awards. Once compiled, this information will be available on the Academic Affairs web site with links to the respective faculty members, their societies, etc. With your assistance, we hope to have this launched by August 2012.

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,
Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs