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Wednesday Communiqué, 5/16/2012

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THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Office of the Provost



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

May 16, 2012

Priorities - Academic, and Otherwise: I did not intend to write a communiqué this week, but have decided to put out a short one on priorities. This past year, I have been discussing an academic planning process that is led by a group of UNM faculty, staff, and students under the name University Council on Academic Priorities-UCAP (<http://provost.unm.edu/academic-planning-2012.html>). Not until this week however, have I felt the full urgency of prioritizing our plans, actions, and our lives. This past week, one of my sons had a serious medical problem that caused my wife and me to halt our lives in order to cater to his needs. Our priorities shifted instantaneously from our professional careers to being scared parents and caregivers.

Throughout the year, I have been requesting your engagement in our academic planning, but today, I ask you to focus on your priorities. I hope that after your family and friends, one of your priorities will include UNM. We have but one university, and unless we all pitch in together, we may have to stop our lives someday in the future, in order to nurse it back to health.

University College: I am very pleased to announce Dr. Kate Krause as Interim Dean of University College. She is a highly accomplished scholar in Economics with a strong commitment to undergraduate education. Dr. Krause has a proven record of excellence as a professor focused on undergraduate education as well as a commitment to student success. The full press release can be found at: <http://news.unm.edu/2012/05/catherine-kate-krause-named-interim-dean-of-university-college/>

Research at UNM: Senior Vice Provost Dougher is forming a search committee to begin the internal search for an Interim VPR. An announcement of the committee membership and process will be forthcoming this week. Meanwhile, incoming president Frank and I are continuing to discuss how to further strengthen and expand the research mission of UNM. Dr. Frank's views are expressed on his blog which can be found at: <http://newpres.unm.edu/blog/2012/05/unms-research-mission-untapped-potential.html>.

I hope that you will take some time to enjoy the end of the semester and examine your priorities, and look forward to seeing you back on campus for the summer session.

Sincerely,

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/>.