

**Provost's Quarterly Newsletter – May 13, 2009, Edition 1.0**  
**Suzanne Ortega, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
<http://www.unm.edu/~acadaffr/CurrentEventsAndInfo.html>

---

**Vision:** To provide a mechanism for timely communication of information and feedback on matters of concern to our academic, research and student affairs community.

**Mission:** To issue updates to our various University constituencies in a manner that provides opportunity for input. Comments, questions or concerns about any of the following can be provided to [provost@unm.edu](mailto:provost@unm.edu).

**Shared Governance:**

A May 13, 2009 letter to the faculty has been issued to provide updates on our progress in addressing the six suggestions from the faculty to address their Shared Governance concerns. It can be accessed at <http://www.unm.edu/~acadaffr/CurrentEventsAndInfo.html> web page.

**Accreditation:**

We were happy to learn that we received full 10-year institutional accreditation from the Higher Learning Commission visit with only two follow-up reports about institutional governance and communication issues and University College advising ratios. Thanks to Wynn Goering & Nancy Middlebrook and to all of the campus community who were involved for their extraordinary efforts.

**Academic Affairs Leadership:**

Assembling an effective academic leadership team has been an extremely high priority during my first year as Provost. Three new Deans have been recruited for the Colleges of Education, Anderson Schools of Management and the School of Law. Dr. Richard Howell, Douglas Brown and Kevin Washburn are all welcome members to our academic leadership team and I look forward to working with them to move our institutional mission forward. Our next Deans' Retreat is scheduled for May 18 where we will discuss the following topics:

- Improving student advising
- Concrete steps to improve retention and graduation rates
- Increasing the role of faculty in student advising
- Multi-year curriculum planning and registration
- Growing graduate enrollment
- Involving deans meaningfully in budget decisions
- Restructuring of special project funding
- Strategies for allocating new faculty lines

In the coming academic year, we will begin the search for a new Dean of the School of Engineering and explore the possibility of two other Dean searches. I ask for your support and input going forward as I continue to build this team that will represent academic interests for the foreseeable future.

**Academic Initiatives/Strategic Priorities of the Deans' Council:**

**Budget:**

I am pleased with the recent budget processes that made minimal cuts to academic programs as well as provided for supplemental funding for new faculty lines and student advising support/personnel.

**Provost's Quarterly Newsletter – May 13, 2009, Edition 1.0**  
**Suzanne Ortega, Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs**  
<http://www.unm.edu/~acadaffr/CurrentEventsAndInfo.html>

Starting with the May 18 Deans' retreat, these and other important issues will be discussed in detail. I look forward to inclusive and open input into this process that ensures that we have all interests in mind.

**Faculty Recruitment:**

The May 18 Deans' Retreat will begin to address how the process for allocation of new faculty lines will be conducted. You may provide input into this process through your Deans.

**Student Services:**

Several efforts are being implemented to pursue our goal of improved student services. The Main Campus One-Stop Services Center in Mesa Vista Hall celebrated its open house on May 6 with a great deal of acclaim and support. The virtual one-stop center and additional one-stop student services center at the new Student Support & Services Center are fully implemented will be showcased at the Grand Opening Celebration scheduled for Thursday, May 14 from 11:30 – 2:30 PM with a Program featuring New Mexico's Governor and various University dignitaries to celebrate the event. I'll hope you'll be able to join us to celebrate.

**Advising:**

As a result of the move of the majority of Enrollment Management staff to the SSSC facility, a significant amount of space was made available to create the new Campus Advising and Outreach Center in the main campus Student Services Center building. This facility will include University College, College of Arts & Sciences and BA/MD advising. Various outreach services such as College Prep, College Mentoring, Natural High, Educational Opportunities Center, Upward Bound and High School Equivalency Program College Learning & Public Service will also relocate to this building in support of our one-stop student service and advising goals.

**Research:**

In addition to working towards a balanced budget in the Research area and developing goals for moving the organization forward, the Research Office with the support of many other campus and external entities, has spent a significant amount of time recently preparing our researchers to apply for various federal economic stimulus funding opportunities. Under the leadership of the VP for Research, the President and I have assembled a team to pursue all state and federal stimulus funding that may be available to us. In particular, the National Institute of Health (NIH) construction grants that are being pursued could add or renew a significant amount of valuable research space on our campus that would be otherwise hard to fund. All of the grants would support our strategic research goals so I encourage your support of our efforts and will keep you posted on our progress.