UNM National Security Workshop
Friday, November 14, 2014: Outline of the Discussion

Provost Chaouki Abdallah welcomed the audience, gave a brief explanation of the National Security Initiative and Dr. Emile Nakhleh’s appointment as Coordinator of the National Security Programs at UNM, and encouraged the community to support the initiative.

Dean Mark Peceny focused his welcoming remarks on his personal interest in US foreign policy in Central America. He mentioned his service on the boards of CSTP and Peace Studies. He also discussed the wealth and diversity of experience that Emile could bring to the new national security initiative.

In prepared remarks, Emile defined national security as a broad concept of protecting various aspects of the nation. He made several key points:

- UNM offers a wealth of programs and courses related to national security, including international relations, foreign policy, public policy, the humanities, social sciences, engineering, computer science, management, technology, leadership, human geography, health sciences, and political economy.

- Given the strength and breadth of our existing programs in this area, the diversity of our students, and the collaborative research with the national labs—particularly Sandia and Los Alamos—UNM is in a strong position to launch coordinated educational and research programs to contribute to our nation’s physical, human, and cyber security.

- Such programs would advance the development of fundamental theories, advanced analysis, and novel methods and technologies, as well as provide our students with the knowledge, skills, and opportunities necessary to successfully compete for careers in national security.

- The diversity of the UNM student body will bring to the national security mix language and cultural expertise and understanding, which would help our future leaders better interact with leaders from other cultures and societies.

Emile encouraged the UNM to work with him in exploring the way forward in national security. UNM Schools and Departments collectively would decide what courses and research projects, from across the university, could be offered to UNM students interested in national security studies and careers. The UNM community would also explore whether the university would set up such interdisciplinary courses as a concentration, a minor, or a certificate at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Furthermore, the university could decide to place all these national security related course and research programs under a national security umbrella or an entity with its brand. Such an entity would enhance the reputation of the
university nationwide in national security studies, broadly defined, and would help UNM students in their search for careers in the government and in the private sector, both domestically and overseas.

He concluded his remarks by saying he was honored to be asked to coordinate the national security initiative and promised to work closely with all stakeholders at UNM.

Q/A followed Emile’s presentation with several professors giving a synopsis of their programs and how such programs relate to the national security initiative. Some of those who spoke included:

- Frank Gilfeather discussed the origins and offerings of the USG-funded NSSP and stressed the importance of critical thinking and writing briefs. He also said that he uses current grant money to fund course development.

- Jim Tegnelia said that Nuclear Engineering teaches a course on non-proliferation but urged UNM to pay attention to the “demand” side of national security—for example, the national labs and other non-university stakeholders.

- Chris Butler discussed concerns for the safety of our students doing field research as reason for “distanced” relationship of POLS. He also identified a couple of POLS courses that are related to national security, including the foreign policy course taught by Mark Peceny.

- Sidhu (Dave) Dawinder spoke about at least two the Law School courses that are directly linked to national security. He conveyed the support by the Dean of the Law School for the national security initiative. He also discussed the new one-year, 30-credit MA in Law, which could be directly related to national security.

- Ed Arthur spoke about the UNM Nuclear Engineering course offerings in the area of nuclear safeguards for them, like the IAEA. He said more work is needed in this area, especially on social issues.

- Jamal Martin discussed both the courses in FCM & AS Global health security and the Diplomacy Lab project.

- Walter Putnam argued that learning foreign languages implies learning culture. Discussed strategically critical languages that are now being offered, thanks to the support of the Dean of Arts and Sciences. He is looking for ways to get students abroad, increasing UNM’s international visibility. He also suggested that UNM would need an entity, and perhaps a course, that would tie the proposed interdisciplinary national security program together.
• Jeff Murray from Homeland Security discussed practical issues of security, including transport security. He welcomed the UNM national security initiative and expressed interest in being a part of it.

• Erica Monahan, History, said, “History has no method,” but stressed sources. “Every course we offer would be” useful for NSSP. “History does it all.” Discussed the “geography-based” divisions in History.

• Sandy Cochran, Research Prof in History, said that theory of conflict course solidly falls under the national security umbrella.

• Rob McDaniels, School of Medicine, discussed the first-responders program (largest in the country); has security links.

• Chris Christodoulou, Associate Dean for Research in Engineering, indicated their students already speak many languages and stressed the technical knowledge required.

• Anne Callaghan, Diplomat in Residence, stressed general support for conflict studies and her work with UNM students interested in pursuing careers in the national security arena.

• Patrick Kelley, Computer Science, discussed issues related to national security, including personal cyber security, privacy, and ethics.

• Tracey Skipp, University College, talked about creating new courses related to the national security program.

• Cindy Rooney, Dean of Instruction at UNM Los Alamos, praised the national security initiative and expressed interest in connecting with it.

• Margarita Brito, FBI Special Agent in Albuquerque, expressed interest in working with students in the national security program, especially to teach them about personal safety while they are studying or doing research abroad.

**Way Forward**

Emile asked the folks present to send him a list of courses in their respective departments or programs (undergraduate and graduate), which they think could be part of the national security program, and which could be available to non-majors.

Michalis Faloutsos, Chair of CS, mentioned the new Masters of Security through the Engineering School.