Exploring National Security at UNM

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Why This Appointment?

- Explore UNM programs, courses, research, and projects, which could relate to national security, broadly defined, and placing them under a broad umbrella with its own brand

Why a Conversation on National Security?

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.

- A National Security Initiative would bring together under one umbrella the different programs and courses that could broadly relate to national security
• Once so designated by their respective departments, such courses would provide UNM students knowledge and experiences, in conjunction with their discipline majors, to prepare them for leadership positions in government as well as in the private sector.

• In addition to a student’s major, these courses could constitute a concentration, a certificate, or a minor in national security, which could enhance the student’s ability to explore employment opportunities and research endeavors in academia and across the economy.

• This conversation aims at exploring the broadly defined nature of national security challenges, and discussing the appropriate means for preparing our college and university students to become the next generation of America’s leaders in the national security field across disciplines.

• The national security Initiative will analyze the rising and ever changing national security threats and examine national workforce needs in the areas of security policy, cyber security and intelligence collections and analysis.

• A national security program will consider the development of sustainable, interdisciplinary national security and intelligence education programs at the University of New Mexico and other participating institutions, which aim at deepening our students’ expertise in national security issues, ranging from the use and management of technology to business, law, engineering, political economy, nonproliferation, the social sciences, and languages.

• It will help produce well-rounded graduates who are versed in both national security policies, as well as the technologies that underlie cyber security and intelligence analysis.

• Once a national security program is established, UNM could team up with institutions within the State of New Mexico and outside, which
might provide specific expertise in particular aspects of national security, to be offered through curriculum sharing, internships and research collaboration.

Final Thoughts

- Our purpose in this exercise is to highlight the richness of our offerings without stepping on anybody’s toes. Departments and colleges will continue to determine their own course offerings with their sovereignty and ownership intact.

- This is a collaborative initiative based on complimentarity, not debilitating competitiveness and is designed to rise above stove piping and turf.

- In the final analysis, the UNM must collectively decide whether to go ahead with providing our students the opportunity to expand their knowledge through a structured academic program from across the university, which would make more competitive nationally.

- I am honored to coordinate this initiative and look forward to your thoughts, ideas, and thoughtful discourse.