

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 10.4.2021

Dr. James Malm

DEAN'S COUNCIL UPDATE.

We know the academic and creative talent throughout our campus abounds, and it is always a great joy to see that talent displayed for our community at large to view and celebrate. That's why I am so pleased with the recent attention our Ingham Chapman Gallery has garnered with its first gallery exhibition in over a year.

The current exhibition, which I invite you all to go and enjoy, features work from two local groups: The Sunday Funday Quilters and The Veterans Helping Veterans Sewing Angels. The exhibit features quilts, masks, umbrellas, and clothing that were all made during the pandemic, reflecting the stories of the individuals who made these items.

PROVOST DEAN'S COUNCIL UPDATE

I'd like to also provide a brief update on recent and impactful items discussed during the last provost Dean's Council held recently. The first item is an update to the university's [Academic Program Review \(APR\) process](#).

As you may know, the APR process is necessary for the university's accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association to satisfy their accreditation criteria. Updates to maximize the UNM APR will also impact our campus, and these changes to the process include no more annual updates, a mid-cycle check to be held three years before the next APR, and an increase in reflective and future thinking that provides leadership with directed information on where programs need help to implement recommendations.

Another impactful update provided in the Dean's Council is the establishment of a [new national peer list for UNM](#). This is important to our operational success as we use this list for making national benchmark comparisons on a variety of metrics including enrollment, diversity, size and mission of institution, and student outcomes—to name just a few.

Our previous peer list had several issues. First, it wasn't geographically dispersed. And most institutions on the list weren't similar to UNM in that they do not have at least 25 percent Under-Represented Minority student enrollment. There were also too many institutions on the list—a total of 20—which made comparisons less meaningful.

The new peer list that will be used moving forward provides effective comparisons for UNM. This new list is reduced to just 10 institutions and includes:

1. Rutgers University - New Brunswick
2. Texas A&M University – College Station
3. University of Texas at Austin
4. University of Arizona
5. University of California - Davis
6. University of Colorado – Denver / Anschutz Medical Campus
7. University of Florida
8. University of Iowa
9. University of South Florida – Main Campus
10. Virginia Commonwealth University

Again, our comparison institutions now better match UNM and provide clearer goals for us to pursue in several important areas, including diversity, student success, equity in student outcomes, research revenues and expenditures, and reliance on state appropriations.



STAFF COUNCIL

To all of our faculty, staff, and students: Please keep up your good work, and thank you for all that you do to help fulfill our mission as a branch campus of the University of New Mexico!

Please stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'.

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business