SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION MEETING

At the request of New Mexico Higher Education Secretary Barbara Damron, I attended a Wednesday meeting of all presidents and chief academic officers in the state. Topics for discussion included common course numbering, meta-majors, performance based funding, academic program review and a variety of other post-secondary initiatives. The secretary updated us on legislative activities and executive procedures for the state. These routine meetings give me the opportunity to represent UNM-Gallup at the state level and bring back shared information to our campus.

DEAN OF INSTRUCTION SEARCH

Earlier this week, I convened the Faculty Assembly President Robert Galin, Senators John Burke and Antoinette Abeyta, and Senator-elect Tracy Lassiter to initiate a conversation and listen to the faculty voice regarding the dean of instruction search. The meeting was very collegial and productive and allowed for open input from these elected representatives. By proactively asking questions and listening to our faculty voices I gained additional information to supplement recommendations of the search committee which will further guide me in the decision process.
PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION

The work and the heavy lifting of the Program Prioritization Project is completed and I want to thank everyone who was involved. All results are posted on the Institutional Research web page including a scatter plot which illustrates the scoring results along grids of effectiveness and efficiency.

https://gallupdata.unm.edu/

HERSTORY MONTH EVENTS

Many thanks to Dr. Tracy Lassiter and Dr. Shirley Heying for organizing Women’s HERstory month activities. I was flattered when they asked me to make opening remarks at the Women’s Resource Fair on Wednesday. The month-long observance of the road to equal rights for women holds deep meaning for me and allows us all to recognize and appreciate the true significance of diversity. By not allowing full contributions by all members, societies lead themselves to failure. In competent cultures, there cannot be discrimination, and all citizens must be allowed to fully participate. Drs. Lassiter and Heying help us honor the shining example of America slowly waking up and acknowledging the contributions of women. I join them in celebrating these hard-won rights. Below is a link to the Resource Fair opening words.

https://youtu.be/VV5gsK2JD0s
BUDGET UPDATE

The UNM Board of Regents hosted the annual Budget Summit Thursday of this week to review and discuss the UNM budget for the fiscal year 2018-2019. The four branch campuses presented near the top of the agenda as an informational item. I was honored to present the UNM-Gallup budget to our regents and we were very well received. The budget package will be presented to our local advisory board at their regular meeting Tuesday, March 27th which is the last stage of the process. Many thanks to all who were instrumental in putting together our financial plan for the next year. The link below provides information on the Budget Summit for those interested in a more thorough look at the process.

FACULTY PROMOTION AND TENURE PROCESS

The process for faculty promotion and tenure is prescriptive and offers the opportunity to document careers based in teaching excellence. As the UNM-Gallup Chief Executive Officer and colleague to Interim Dean Irene DenBleyker who is contractually obligated to elevate promotion and tenure decisions to me, it is my pleasure to have direct involvement in this process. The burden of assembling materials for retention, promotion and tenure lies with the candidates. As I review candidate dossiers, I am always impressed with the evidence and historical record of their professional commitment to educational success and achievement of instructional goals. This is by far one of my favorite parts of the job and reminds me of our mission to serve students. Below is a link to the Provost’s Promotion and Tenure Guide.