

FACULTY SENATE SUMMARIZED MINUTES

2013-2014 FACULTY SENATE January 28, 2014

The Faculty Senate meeting for January 28 was called to order at 3:00 p.m. in the Roberts Room of Scholes Hall. Faculty Senate President Richard Holder presided.

ATTENDANCE

Guests Present: Priscila Poliana- GPSA President, Paul Roth-Chancellor of HSC, Talal Saint Lot – Graduate Resource Center

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as written.

1. Approval of summarized minutes for November 26, 2013 meeting

The minutes were approved as written with one abstention.

2. Memorial Minute for Donna Cromer

Assistant Professor Todd Quinn (University Libraries), presented the following memorial minute for Professor Donna Cromer. This was followed by a minute of silence in her honor.

Memorial for Professor Donna Cromer College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences

Donna Cromer, a native New Mexican, and a long time professor of librarianship at the Centennial Science and Engineering Library (CSEL), passed away in December 2013 after a short illness.

Donna completed her Bachelor of University Studies at UNM in 1976 and received her Masters of Arts in Linguistics and Masters of Library Science simultaneous at the University of Washington, in 1981.

Donna began her career at UNM as an Assistant Professor in Librarianship in 1987 after two years in the Technical Library with the Air Force Weapons Laboratory at Kirkland Air Force Base.

Donna spent her entire career at UNM engaged in a number of research projects with colleagues and faculty. As well, she was the long-time coordinator of public services at CSEL, was instrumental in leading CSEL into new information dissemination technologies, and served on numerous library and UNM faculty committees. She was a recognized resource for the science and engineering communities on and off campus.

Those who had the opportunity to work with Donna shared their mutual admiration for her. This admiration is expressed well by a former library intern.

"I loved working with Donna, although she knew roughly 8 million times as much about science and science-based research than I did, she always made me feel like she was genuinely happy to share what she knew with me. She was patient, she was laid back, she was smart, she was willing to share insider information about where to find the best New Mexican food, and she could tell funny jokes about chemistry manuals. What more could you ask for in a co-worker?"

Donna was an active member of the Special Libraries Association, serving as a membership chair and on their strategic planning committee among other services. A recent email sent from a long time SLA colleague expresses the feelings held by many of the members.

“Donna was a wonderful colleague and friend who will be missed by all of us.”

I would like now to have a moment of silence to honor Donna and to remember her in our own special way.

3. Graduate & Professional Student Association (GPSA)

GPSA, President Priscila Poliana reported on the New Billing Platform project that will help students understand why there have been constant increases in tuition and fees. The GPSA has given presentations to the Finance and Facilities Committee and the Board of Regents. Some members from the Board of Regents and the Finance and Facilities Committee were in support of their findings and GPSA needs support for this project. In mid-December GPSA worked with an information technology group which has helped in advancing the project. The New Billing Platform project is in four phases, these phases with updates on their progress can be viewed at: <http://gpsa.unm.edu/>. The goal for this project is for students to be able to review tuition per credit, hour, and fees. When working on the project it was noticed that there was no explanation for differentials that the professional schools charge to students. GPSA, President Priscila Poliana is working with Associate Provost Greg Heileman to understand why students are paying the differential and how the money is being used. Moving forward the GPSA is proposing to request for departments to submit new proposals with the differentials so that students are aware of what they are paying. There are over 3,000 course fees; in the new billing platform it will show the description of why the student is paying the course fee.

Undergraduate students have an incentive to be on the 15 credit hour block the Graduate students with the elimination of the tuition block are now paying a fixed amount per credit hour. The tuition can go up to 60% because of the elimination of the tuition block. GPSA proposed to the Tuition and Fee Team to reinstate the tuition block. The proposal put forward would cost the University \$270,000 a year but the elimination gave revenue of \$520,000 to the University. The proposal that was received from faculty was an inclination of a block that would be 14 credit hours and up. This proposal will not keep incentives for Graduates to take more classes.

The proposal will be discussed at the Academic, Student Affairs & Research Committee meeting scheduled on Thursday, February 6, 2014. GPSA President, Priscila Poliana invited all faculty to attend this meeting in support of the proposal.

4. HSC Chancellor's Report

Chancellor Paul Roth gave an update regarding the Health Sciences Center.



Change and Continuity at the UNM Health Sciences Center

A Presentation to the UNM Faculty Senate

January 28, 2014

Paul B. Roth, M.D., M.S.
Chancellor for Health Sciences
CEO, UNM Health System
Dean, UNM School of Medicine

N.M. Health Workforce Shortage

- Longstanding deficits in key specialties
- Shortages in rural communities
- Shortages worsened by Affordable Care Act

N.M. Health Workforce Committee

- Established in 2012 by N.M. Legislature
- HSC leads workforce data collection and analysis
- Annual report and recommendations sent to lawmakers

Recommendations Include:

- Targeted recruitment and loan repayment
- More Graduate Medical Education slots
- More Advanced Practice Registered Nurses
- More BSN graduates
- New BA/DDS program
- Leveraging technology (Project ECHO)
- New delivery models

N.M. Nursing Education Consortium Outcomes:

- Seamless process for nursing students to participate in a BSN program from their home communities
- Common procedures in advisement, admissions, progression, course delivery and financial aid
- Increase number of nurses with BSN and graduate degrees.
- Community colleges and universities cooperate to improve efficiency, quality and educational outcomes
- Increased access to BSN programs for New Mexico's rural and minority populations

N.M. Nursing Education Consortium

Members:

Central New Mexico Community College
College Eastern New Mexico University
University – Roswell Luna Community College
New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico State University
Alamogordo, Carlsbad
Community College
New Mexico – Gallup, Taos, Valencia

Clovis Community
Eastern New Mexico
New Mexico Junior College
New Mexico State University –
San Juan Community College
Santa Fe
University of New Mexico
University of
Western New Mexico University

HSC Research Mission

- \$150 million in extramural funding
- More than 900 grants
 - Brain & behavioral research
 - Infectious diseases
 - Cancer
 - Children’s health
 - Environmental health
 - Cardiovascular and metabolic diseases

Proposed College of Public Health

Model A – a “virtual” approach

- **Benefits**
 - Transparent, cost effective & collaborative
 - “Network” leaves intact existing departmental structures
 - Joint faculty appointments
 - Centralization of public health activities and education
 - Leaner than a traditional college

5. Faculty Senate President’s Report

The Board of Regents have held two special meetings to discuss Innovate ABQ. There are two branches of the project; Mesa Del Sol and the Presbyterian Church located on Central and Broadway. In the last month, there have been no updates regarding the Mesa Del Sol project but there has been movement on the Presbyterian Church location. The Board of Regents gave conditional approval to purchase the church; the condition is that they want a Hold Harmless Clause in the Bill of Sale for environmental cleanup. On the edge of the property near the railroad there is fuel that has gone into the water supply that needs to be cleaned. The University will not pay for this clean up, and will not be responsible for it. The funding to purchase the church is \$7.1 million and the revenue to support the cost is \$3 million from the New Mexico Educators Federal Credit Union, \$2 million from the City of Albuquerque, a Federal Grant for \$1.5 million, which leaves \$6.5 million that will come from the UNM Foundation. Purchasing the building is the beginning of an enormous project, estimating renovation costing up to \$19-20 million. Faculty Senate President, Richard Holder’s concerns were heard by the Board of Regents which conveyed that this project cannot detract from the Universities teaching, and scholarly mission. Another concern that he mentioned was to see an academic interest in the project beyond economic development. There will be an Innovate Academy that will offer courses. Other concerns expressed were how the Research Park is being used; the success of it has never been evaluated. Faculty Senate President, Richard Holder requested an update on how the Research Park is working and what the relationship is between the Research Park and Innovate ABQ.

6. CONSENT AGENDA TOPICS

2013-2014 Faculty Senate Committee Appointments

The 2013-2014 Faculty Senate Committees appointments were approved by unanimous voice vote of the Faculty Senate.

Faculty Senate Committee Appointments Needing Senate Approval

First	Last	Title	Department	Committee	Date added
Charles	Paine	Associate Chairperson	English	Budget	12/6/2013

Form C from the Curricula Committee

The following Form C's were approved by voice vote of the Faculty Senate:

Undergrad BFA Interdisciplinary Film & Digital Media Core (Prod. Crit. Studies)
Undergrad BA Communication Critical Studies Mass Media Concentration
Undergrad BA Journalism & Mass Communication Digital Field Multimedia
Undergrad BA Communication Environmental Communication Concentration
Major Revision BA & BS EPS and BS Environmental Science
Undergraduate BS Intended Engineering Program Code

AGENDA TOPICS

7. 120 Credit Hour for Baccalaureate Degrees (Information)

Associate Provost Greg Heileman reported on the 120 credit hour for Baccalaureate degrees. The Higher Education Commission follows the criteria that associate degrees be 30 credit hours, baccalaureate degrees be 120 credit hours, master degrees be 30 credit hours and beyond. If there is any deviance from that, it should be explained. There is not another state institution in this country that requires a minimum up to 128. There are programs on campus that have created 120-credit-hour curricula to submit as soon as possible. The 4 year graduation rates are between 12-15% since the University does not have 4 year degree plans. All of the curricula will be in a metrics form online that will be available to all faculty to experiment with moving classes to 120 credit hours. Associate Provost, Greg Heileman stated that in this metric it will show how efficiently students can progress.

Past Faculty Senate President, Amy Neel stated that this Form C will be allowing programs to establish a 120 hour degree rather than a 128 hour degree. There are programs that will not lower their requirements but there are a number of programs that are ready. No program will be forced to lower their requirements.

8. 120 Credit Hour for Baccalaureate Degrees (Action)

The Form C 1262 Baccalaureate Degrees change one number in the UNM Catalog. Currently, a minimum of 128 semester hours of earned credit is required for a bachelor's degree that will change to 120 semester hours of earned credit. This will not force an individual program to accept 120 semester hours of earned credit.

All were in favor, Form C 1262 Baccalaureate Degrees was approved by unanimous voice vote of the Faculty Senate with two opposed and one abstention.

**DEGREE/PROGRAM CHANGE
FORM C
Form Number: C1262**

Fields marked with * are required

Name of Initiator: Diane Lee Marshall Email: * marshall@unm.edu Date: * 09-09-13
Phone Number: * 505 277-1168 Initiator's Title* Associate Dean: College of Arts and Sciences

Associated Forms exist? * No ▼
Faculty Contact* Diane Marshall Administrative Contact* Stephanie Hands
Department* Arts and Sciences Admin Email* ssmith@unm.edu
Branch Admin Phone* 277-7373

Proposed effective term:
Semester Fall ▼ Year 2014 ▼

Course Information

Select Appropriate Program Undergraduate Degree Program ▼
Name of New or Existing Program * All baccalaureate degrees
Select Category Degree ▼ Degree Type BA and BS
Select Action New ▼

Exact Title and Requirements as they should appear in the catalog. If there is a change, upload current and proposed requirements.
See current catalog for format within the respective college (upload a doc/pdf file)

[Graduation Requirements for UNM.docx](#)

Does this change affect other departmental program/branch campuses? If yes, indicate below.

Reason(s) for Request * (enter text below or upload a doc/pdf file)
This is a request to change the minimum number of student credit hours for all undergraduate degrees from 128 to 120. The reasons are included in two files. See below
[Reasons to change university requirement to 120 student credit hours.docx](#)

Upload a document that includes justification for the program, impact on long-range planning, detailed budget analysis and faculty workload implications. *

[UNM-TimeToDegree2013.pdf](#)

**Timely Completion at the University of New
Mexico: Excessive Credits and Baccalaureate
Degree Program Minimums**

Academic Affairs Policy Report 2013-001

August 26, 2013

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1 Introduction

This report addresses the issue of timely completion of baccalaureate degrees at the University of New Mexico (UNM), with a focus on the number of credit hours required by UNM degree programs. In this section we provide some background on this problem, along with the relevant policies at UNM that govern graduation requirements. In Section 2, we provide recent UNM data related to student success; more specifically, we provide data describing the number of credit hours on average accumulated by UNM graduates. Next, in Section 3, we compare this UNM data to similar data in other states and at other institutions. In addition, we describe a number of state efforts aimed at addressing timely completion of baccalaureate degrees. Finally, in Section 4, we provide some recommendations for policy and curricular changes that will facilitate more timely degree completion at UNM.

There are three manuals containing policies related to the governance and operation of UNM. These are the Board of Regents' Policy Manual, the Faculty Handbook and the University Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual. None of these manuals contain any policies related to the number of credit hours required for a baccalaureate degree at the University of New Mexico. Rather, the only policy we have discovered related to the minimum number of credit hours required for a baccalaureate degree program at UNM is contained in the UNM University Catalog. This policy states, under the Graduation Requirements section, that [3]:

“Candidates for an undergraduate bachelors degree must meet the following University minimum degree requirements and are subject to the following University limitations:

—A **minimum** of 128 semester hours of earned credit is required. . . .”

The Office of the Secretary at UNM has performed a search for any actions taken by the UNM Faculty Senate on the number of credit hours required for a degree. The archives were searched dating back to 1976, the earliest date that Faculty Senate minutes are available electronically, with no records found pertaining to any actions or discussions related to this topic.

2 UNM Student Success

In order to set the context, in this section we provide some recent data related to degree completions at UNM. Specifically, Figure 1 shows the average number of credit hours, by college, for students that graduated with a bachelor's degree from UNM during the 2011-12 academic year. The gray line in this figure shows the range of credit hours required. Thus, any credit hours above this line are in excess, and provide a measure of inefficiency in the production of UNM bachelor's degrees. Although the three colors used to construct the bars in this figure—corresponding to credits earned at an institution other than UNM,

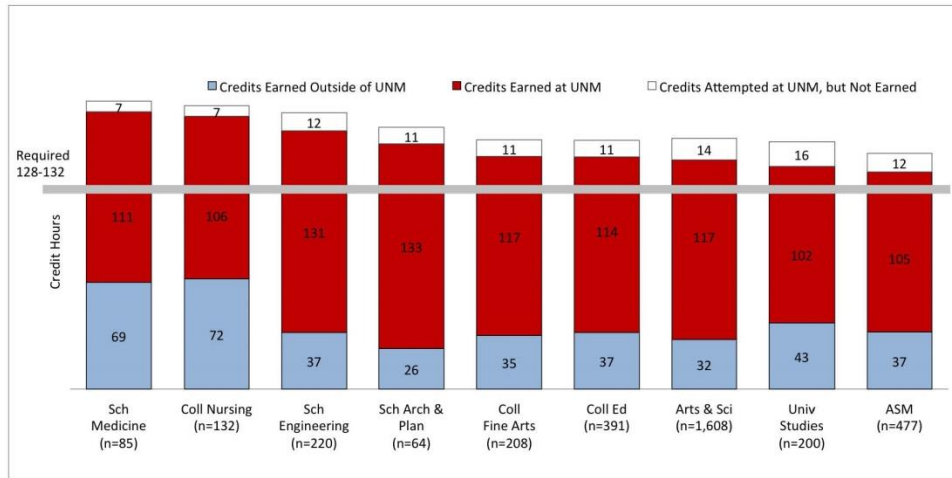


Figure 1: The average number of credit hours by college for bachelor's degree recipients at UNM during the 2011-12 academic year.

credits earned at UNM, and credits attempted but not earned at UNM—are shown on top of one another, it is important to recognize that these are *not* intended to imply a temporal relationship. That is, the credits earned outside of UNM do not all necessarily occur prior to earning credits at UNM, and the unsuccessful attempts at credit hours could have occurred at any time during students' progress towards degrees. Indeed, it is common for UNM students to intersperse credits over time between those earned at UNM and those earned elsewhere.

Figure 1 demonstrates that the excess credit hours accumulated by students in many colleges at UNM are significant. For instance, students that graduated with baccalaureate degrees in the 2011-12 academic year from the School of Medicine, the College of Nursing, the School of Engineering and the School of Architecture and Planning accumulated on average 187, 185, 180 and 170 credits hours, respectively. In the largest unit at UNM, the College of Arts & Sciences, students in this graduating class averaged 163 credit hours. To put these numbers in perspective, consider that a bachelor's as well as a masters degree are often obtained with 150 total credit hours—assuming 120 credit hours for a bachelor's degree, and 30 credit hours for a masters degree, the minimum requirements at many institutions.

Figure 2 shows the total number of earned credit hours, by degree program, for students that graduated with a bachelor's degree from UNM during the 2011-12 academic year. For each program, the low end of the line corresponds to the 25-th percentile and the high end to the 75-th percentile of the population that graduated with a particular degree. In addition, for each program, the center point of each circle corresponds to the median, and the size of the circle corresponds to the number of degrees awarded. Only programs that awarded more than 10 degrees during this time period are shown. Although many programs in engineering

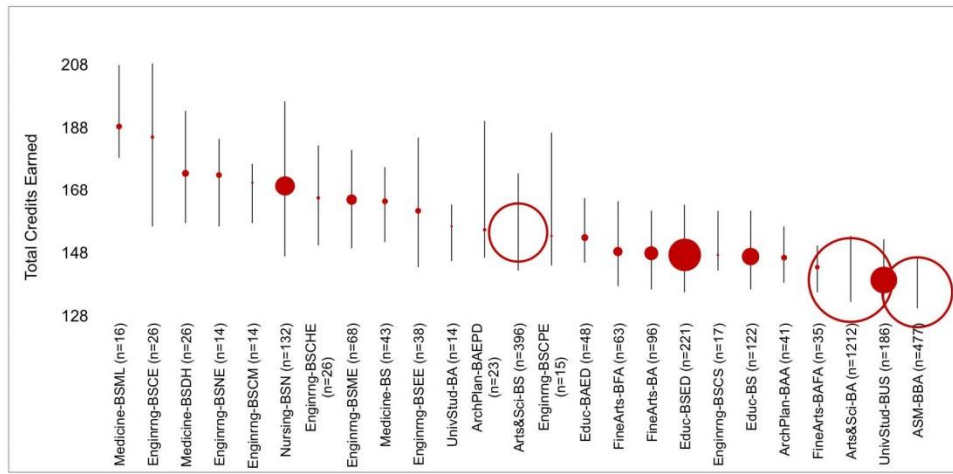


Figure 2: The total number of credit hours earned by program for bachelor's degree recipients at UNM during the 2011-12 academic year. The low end of each line corresponds to the 25-th percentile and the high end to the 75-th percentile. The center point of each circle corresponds to the median, and the size of the circle corresponds to the number of degrees awarded. Only programs that awarded more than 10 degrees during this time period are shown.

and medicine are on the high end in this chart, the number of students these programs graduate is small. The bulk of students at UNM graduate with degrees from the College of Arts & Sciences, and Figure 2 shows that students in bachelor of arts programs are far more efficient than those in bachelor of science programs.

3 Comparisons to Other States and Institutions

For the high school graduating class of 1972, the national average for the number of credit hours accumulated in the pursuit of a bachelor's degree was 130; by 1982, this rose to 134, and by 1992, it was 138 [4]. In the mid-1990s, a number of states began to investigate the problem of "credit creep," and this problem was addressed in many cases through legislative actions. In this section we summarize a few of the more prominent cases, and then we provide comparisons between UNM and a number of institutions in other states.

In 1995, the State of Florida legislated that all baccalaureate degree programs at all state institutions, with exceptions allowed, be reduced to 120 credit hours. Prior to this, the state policy was that programs were not to exceed 128 credit hours. This legislation also mandated that all general education requirements be reduced to 36 hours, and that common degree program prerequisites be standardized, offered and accepted by all of the state's public universities and community colleges. In addition, the timeline provided for completing this work was only one year. Within six months of enacting this legislation, the statewide inventory of degree programs by credit hour had been reduced by 1,571 credit hours [5]. At the University of Florida, the largest university in the state at the time, this change translated into a savings of nearly 56,000 credit hours annually, which equated to approximately 400 additional four-year degrees without changing the overall enrollment level.

In 1993-94, the University of Wisconsin enacted curricular reforms similar to those instituted in Florida. Over the next sixteen years, the average number of credit hours attempted by graduates was reduced from 145 to 132. This change allowed the University of Wisconsin to accommodate 15,000 additional students in 2009-10, as compared to what would have been possible in 1993-94 [4].

In 2005, the State of Texas enacted legislation that placed a limit, with exceptions, on the number of semester credit hours that a public university in that state may require for any bachelor's degree. The statute in the case reads [2]:

"To earn a baccalaureate degree, a student may not be required by a general academic teaching institution to complete more than the minimum number of semester credit hours required for the degree by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools or its successor unless the institution determines that there is a compelling academic reason for requiring completion of additional semester credit hours for the degree."

Furthermore, this statute “does not prohibit the institution from reducing the number of semester credit hours the student must complete to receive the degree.” Similar to all other higher education accreditation commissions we are aware of, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools assumes a minimum requirement of 120 credit hours for any baccalaureate degree program.

In addition, it should be noted that both Texas and Florida have passed laws requiring universities to charge additional tuition for excessive undergraduate credit hours. Specifically, in 2009, the State of Florida enacted legislation which requires universities to add a surcharge on each credit hour taken in excess of 120% of the total hours required for a degree [1].

Upon searching the State of New Mexico Constitution, Administrative Code and Statutes, we have not found any requirements or guidelines from the state regarding credit hours for degree completion for institutions of higher learning; however, the Higher Learning Commission, the institutional accreditor for UNM, outlines minimum expectations in the Assumed Practices section of their criteria. Specifically, the minimum credit hour guidelines for degrees are listed in Section B.1.a. as follows:

“The institution conforms to commonly accepted minimum program length: 60 semester credits for associates degrees, 120 semester credits for bachelors degrees, and 30 semester credits beyond the bachelors for masters degrees. Any variation from these minima must be explained and justified.”

A search of the minimum credit hour requirements for degree completion was conducted for UNM’s newly proposed peer list. A majority of UNM’s peers set the minimum credit hour requirements for a bachelors degree at 120 hours, with the exception of New Mexico State University (128), and the University of Utah (122). Most of these peers also set a minimum requirement for a second degree at 30 hours, although Texas Tech University requires 24 hours. A majority of the institutions also state that the minimum requirements for specific bachelors degrees may vary by college and degree. A summary of these results is provided in Figure 3, where we have also listed the minimum credit hour requirement for four-year institutions in New Mexico. Note that all but one of the seven four-year institutions in New Mexico require a minimum of 128 credit hours for a bachelor’s degree. The exception is New Mexico Tech University, which requires a minimum of 130 credit hours.

In addition, the Office of Institutional Analytics at UNM contacted a few of our peer institutions in order to obtain data related to the actual number of credit hours attempted by graduates. The results are shown in Figures 4 and 5. Figure 4 shows the average number of credit hours accumulated by degree recipients at three of UNM’s peer institutions, Arizona State, University of Houston and University of Tennessee. It is interesting to note that Arizona State University has the minimum value for all colleges across all four institutions shown in the figure. Not only does Arizona State University have a 120 credit hour minimum for the baccalaureate degree, but the university has mandated that *all* programs, including those in architecture and engineering, must meet the minimum with their degree requirements. Contrast this to the University of Houston. Even though the State of Texas

Institution	Min. Credit Hours bachelor's Degree	Notes
Arizona State University	120	Policy allows for exceptions; however, <i>all</i> programs, including those in architecture and engineering, meet the minimum.
University of Arizona	120	
University of California–Riverside	180 (quarter system)	Equates to 120 semester credit hrs.
University of Colorado–Boulder	120	
University of Colorado–Denver	120	
Florida International University	120	
University of Iowa	120	
University of Kansas	120	
University of Missouri–Columbia	120	
University of Nebraska–Lincoln	120	
University of Nevada–Las Vegas	120	
University of Oklahoma	120	
University of Tennessee (Texas System)	120	120 credit hours is the legislated maximum, with exceptions allowed. Texas State Law on Excessive Undergraduate Hours assesses a penalty for exceeding 30 hours beyond those required for degree.
Texas A&M University–College Station		
Texas Tech University		
The University of Texas at Arlington		
The University of Texas at Austin		
The University of Texas at El Paso		
University of Houston		
Oklahoma State University	120	Some programs are as high as 150 credit hrs.
University of Utah	122	
<i>New Mexico Institutions</i>		
Eastern New Mexico University	128	
New Mexico Highlands University	128	
New Mexico State	128	At least 48 hrs. numbered 300 and above.
New Mexico Tech University	130	
Northern New Mexico College	128	
Western New Mexico University	128	
University of New Mexico	128	

Figure 3: The minimum number of credit hours required for a bachelor's degree at UNM peer institutions and other four-year institutions in New Mexico.

	UNM	Arizona State	Univ Houston	Univ Tennessee			
Degree Year	'11-'12	'11-'12	'10-'11	'11-'12			
Min. Credit Hours for Degree	128	120	120	120			
Average Credit Hours by Coll.							
School Medicine	180.5						
Coll. Nursing	177.7	Nursing & Health Innovation	153.0	Coll. Nursing	148.5		
School Engineering	168.1	Engineering	147.0	Cullen Coll. Engineering	166.2	Engineering	151.0
School Arch. & Planning	159.5	Design & The Arts - Design	136.0	School Architecture	177.8	Architecture & Design	171.7
Coll. Fine Arts	151.5	Design & The Arts - Fine Arts	137.0				
Coll. Education	151.3	Teachers Coll.	134.0	Coll. Education	160.5		
Coll. Arts & Sciences	149.3	Liberal Arts & Sciences	133.0	Coll. Liberal Arts & Soc Sci	152.5	Arts And Sciences	141.1
University Studies	145.1	Letters & Sciences	129.0				
Anderson Schools Management	141.5	Business	134.0	Bauer Coll. Business	155.2	Business Administration	135.0

Figure 4: The average number of credit hours accumulated by graduates of specific colleges at UNM, Arizona State University, University of Houston and University of Tennessee.

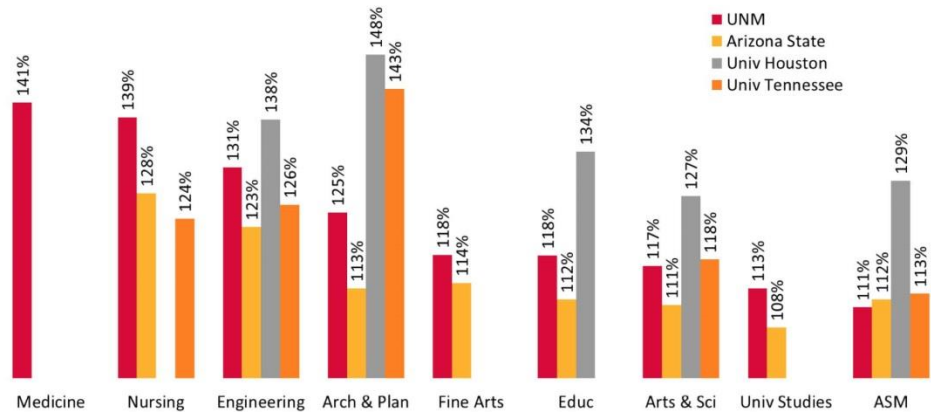


Figure 5: The excess credit hours for graduates of specific colleges, as a percentage of the minimum required for the degree, at UNM (2011-12), Arizona State University (2011-12), University of Houston (2010-11) and University of Tennessee (2011-12).

mandates a 120 credit hour minimum, exceptions are allowed, and the University of Houston makes use of them. For instance, in the Cullen College of Engineering at the University of Houston, degree programs have between 127 and 131 required credit hours. The Bachelor of Architecture degree at the University of Houston is a five-year 160 credit hour program.

4 Recommendations

Complete College America provides three policy recommendations aimed at reducing time to degree. These include [4]:

1. Control credit creep by limiting program length.
2. Establish model four-year semester-by-semester road maps for all programs.
3. Guarantee the transfer of general education curriculum.

UNM should follow the examples set by other states, as well as the recommendations of Complete College America, in order to streamline our curricula and address the excess credit hour issue that exists on our campus. This should be accomplished through the following actions:

- Work with the UNM Faculty Senate to create a policy that reduces the minimum number of credit hours required for a baccalaureate degree at UNM from 128 to 120. Many of our peer institutions have demonstrated that this is possible while also maintaining program quality.
- Once the previous policy is in place, work with the UNM Faculty Senate Curriculum Committee and academic departments to review all degree programs, with the goal of reducing degree requirements in order to match the 120 credit hour minimum, with exceptions allowed if compelling academic reasons are provided.
- Work with academic units at UNM to create four-year semester-by-semester road maps for all programs, and provide mechanisms for tracking the progress of students relative to these road maps.
- Create degree road maps that may be customized to a student's particular circumstances—e.g., that start at the math course a student tests into, or that incorporate work completed at other institutions in the state (taking into account articulation agreements).

References

- [1] Florida Statutes. www.leg.state.fl.us/Statutes, 2012. 1009.286 – Additional student payment for hours exceeding baccalaureate degree program completion requirements at state universities.
- [2] Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us>, 2013. 61.0515 – Statutory Limitation on Semester Credit Hours Required for a Baccalaureate Degree.
- [3] UNM Catalog. <http://catalog.unm.edu/catalogs/2012-2013/undergrad-program.html>, 2013.
- [4] N. Johnson. Three policies to reduce time to degree. Technical report, Complete College America, Washington, DC, February 2011.
- [5] R. E. LeMon and G. W. Pitter. Standardizing across institutions: Now that we all look alike, what do we look like? Technical report, Office of Academic Program Review, State University System of Florida, Tallahassee, FL, 1996.

We are proposing that the minimum number of credit hours required for a baccalaureate degree be reduced from 128 to 120.

We are proposing this for several reasons.

1. This will allow students to graduate in 8 semesters by taking 15 hours per semester. This is particularly important for students who are not taking laboratory courses. When students take a course with a lab it is straightforward to take 16 hrs per semester. However, when students are not taking a lab, they must take more than 5 courses per semester to meet the 16 hrs per semester required to graduate in 8 semesters.
2. 120 hours per semester is standard practice among our peer institutions – a minimum of 120 credit hours for schools on a semester schedule or 180 credit hours for schools that operate on the credit system is required by University of Arizona, University of Colorado, University of Iowa, University of Kansas, University of Kentucky, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, University of Oklahoma, University of Oregon, University of South Carolina, University of Tennessee, University of Texas (Austin, El Paso, and Arlington), University of Virginia, University of Washington, University of California at Riverside, Arizona State University, Texas A&M, University of Houston, University of Nevada, University of North Texas, and Florida International University. The University of Arkansas and Oklahoma State University require 124 credit hours, the University of Utah requires 122 and New Mexico State University Requires 128.
3. This change works well with the new tuition policy that encourages students to take a least 15 hrs of courses per semester.

It is important to note that this is a minimum, not a maximum. It is possible for particular degrees to require higher numbers of hours, especially if their disciplinary accreditation requires this. That practice is common among our peer institutions.

Graduation Requirements

Bachelor's Degrees

Graduation from the University of New Mexico is not automatic. Application for candidacy for graduation is required. Each college may have differing deadlines for degree application. Students anticipating graduation should make arrangements in advance with their college.

Candidates for an undergraduate bachelor's degree must meet the following University minimum degree requirements and are subject to the following University limitations:

1. The student must be admitted to the University of New Mexico college from which the degree is awarded at the time of graduation.
2. A **minimum** of ~~428~~120 semester hours of earned credit is required.
3. Complete the University Core Curriculum.
4. Residence credit requirement: A minimum of 30 semester hours of credit, exclusive of extension and correspondence (independent study) credit, must be earned at the University of New Mexico. Of these 30 semester hours in residence, 15 semester hours must be earned after the candidate has accumulated 92 hours of earned semester hour credit; these 15 hours, however, do not necessarily have to be the last hours of a degree program. A student may fulfill all or part of this residence requirement by attending summer session.
5. The student must have a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0.
6. The student must demonstrate a minimum competence in English writing by passing ENGL 102 with a "C" or better or attaining a suitable score on an authorized proficiency test prior to graduation. Students exempt from taking ENGL 101 and students who receive a grade of B- or higher in ENGL 101 or its equivalent at another institution, may choose to satisfy the minimum competence in English writing requirement through the Writing Proficiency Portfolio program administered in the English Department.
7. A maximum

9. 2014 Shared Knowledge Conference

Graduate Studies Program Coordinator, Talal Saint-Lot reported on the 2014 Shared Knowledge Conference (<http://unmgrc.unm.edu/conference/>). The Graduate Resources Center serves students from the undergraduate level in terms of assisting them into graduate school. The Center serves the new Graduate students by providing introductory workshops, consultations on writing and statistics. They serve Graduate students working on their dissertation or thesis.

The Shared Knowledge Conference will be held on Tuesday, April 16 through Thursday, April 18 in the Student Union Building. The Graduate Resource Center has been hosting this conference for the past three years. Every year participation has increased, and last year the conference was statewide incorporating the undergraduate student population with New Visions Research Colloquium. This conference is student planned and student organized. The goal is to celebrate research on campus and get students excited about what they are doing and why they are here at the University. The Graduate Resource Center works across the University through the Sciences, Arts, Humanities and north campus. There are a variety of formats available at the conference; traditional oral presentations, student film show case, poster model art exhibit, creative performances, open format sessions and a three minute thesis competition. For the three minute thesis competition there will be prizes given; \$1,000 scholarship, \$500 scholarship or iPad Air for the runner up. There will be categorical prizes for each category; \$500 scholarship or iPad

Air. Faculty participation and engaging students to participate is necessary. There is a selection process; students that are first time presenters are encouraged to participate.

10. UNM Legislative Update

Director of Government Affairs, Marc Saavedra gave an update on the 2014 Legislative Session.



Office of Government Relations

2014 Regular Legislative Session – Briefing: January 22, 2014

The 2014 legislative session commenced with the promise of a gradual economic turnaround. The LFC and DFA revenue estimates projected "new money" in the amount of \$293 million. Additionally, there is \$167 million in GO Bond capacity and \$185 million in Severance Tax Bonds available for capital projects. The following summarizes how UNM fared in the HED, DFA and LFC budget recommendations for FY 15:

➤ HED – Higher Education Department

- I&G budget recommendation starts from the FY 14 operating base:
 - Main Campus, \$183,921,000, a \$3,517,500 increase or 1.9%
 - Health Sciences Center, \$61,417,200, a \$499,900 increase or 0.8%
- ERB – Employer contribution of 0.75%.
- Research and Public Service Projects
 - Main Campus, \$9,580,272, a 6.8% increase
 - Health Sciences Center, \$24,486,300, an 8.34% increase

➤ DFA - Department of Finance and Administration – Executive

- I&G budget recommendation starts from the FY 14 operating base:
 - Main Campus, \$183,156,500, a \$2,752,000 increase or 1.5%
 - Health Sciences Center, \$61,667,300, a \$750,000 increase or 1.2%
 - Branch Campuses
 - Gallup, \$9,037,000, a \$69,400 increase or 0.8%
 - Los Alamos, \$1,901,900, a \$25,900 increase or 1.4%
 - Taos, \$3,467,900, a \$49,300 increase or 1.4%
 - Valencia, \$5,460,500, a \$110,500 increase or 2.1%
- ERB – Employer contribution of 0.75%, details not yet available for ERB breakout
- Research and Public Service Projects – No reductions

➤ LFC - Legislative Finance Committee

- I&G budget recommendation starts from the FY 14 operating base:
 - Main Campus, \$186,344,600, a \$5,930,100 increase or 3.3%
 - Health Sciences Center, \$61,713,300, a \$796,000 increase or 1.3%
 - Branch Campuses
 - Gallup, \$9,281,200, a \$313,600 increase or 3.5%
 - Nursing Expansion, \$209,800, a \$59,100 increase or 39.2%
 - Los Alamos, \$1,904,500, a \$28,500 increase or 1.5%
 - Taos, \$3,492,100, a \$73,500 increase or 2.2%
 - Nursing Expansion, \$244,600
 - Valencia, \$5,522,600, a \$172,600 increase or 3.2%
 - Nursing Expansion, \$170,300
- ERB – Employer contribution of 0.75% recommends funding at General Fund rate of I&G salaries.
- 1.5% compensation increase based on salaries paid by I&G funds, approx. 62% of UNM employees
- Research and Public Service Projects
 - Main Campus, \$9,184,100, a 2.8% increase
 - Health Sciences Center, \$26,016,400, a 15.11% increase

➤ **Lottery Scholarship:**

- For FY 14, HED has requested an \$11 million non-recurring general fund appropriation and has provided the legislature with 32 different scenarios to achieve solvency.
- The LFC recommends \$11 million of non-recurring general fund appropriation for the spring of 2014 and an additional \$8 million non-recurring general fund appropriation for FY 15. The \$8 million appropriation is contingent on enacting legislation during the 2014 session that improves lottery scholarship solvency. The LFC proposal also includes an additional \$2.9 million to provide full tuition for current students who have received the scholarship for four semesters. The LFC proposes that the legislation include: capping the scholarship awards; raising the GPA requirement from 2.5 to 2.75; and 15 credits per semester. The LFC predicts that these changes will save the scholarship approximately \$5 million in FY15.

➤ **Compensation**

- The Executive budget recommends \$14.2 million in targeted compensation for hard to fill position such as public safety, corrections, social workers and IT.
- The LFC has recommended a 1.5% cost of living adjustment for all state employees. However, for the university, this would be funded at the General Fund rate of I&G salaries, roughly 62%.

➤ **Endowment & Economic Development**

- The Executive budget has recommended \$7.5 million to replenish the higher education endowment fund. Main Campus would receive 18% and Health Science Center would receive 12% as provided in statute. In addition, the Executive recommends \$2 million for the Technology Research Collaborative.

➤ **SB 53, General Obligation Bond Projects, Senator Cisneros:**

FARRIS ENGINEERING	\$20,500,000
HSC – HEALTH EDUCATION BUILDING	\$12,000,000
UNM – GALLUP ZOLLINGER LIBRARY COMPLETION	\$ 1,050,000
UNM – LOS ALAMOS CLASSROOM REMODEL	\$ 500,000
UNM – TAOS CORE STUDENT SUCCESS CENTER	\$ 4,000,000
UNM – VALENCIA CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT	\$ 1,000,000
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO TOTAL	\$39,050,000

➤ **2014 Legislative Session Additional Capital Outlay Needed:**

- | | |
|---|---------------------|
| • Physics and Astronomy Building | \$ 3,000,000 |
| • Campus Safety Lighting | \$ 125,000 |

➤ Proposed Legislation of Interest.

- Please visit the Office of Government Relations website at <http://govrel.unm.edu/>, and click on 2014 Legislative Session for a list of all bills that impact UNM. For daily legislative updates. Please sign up to join our listserv for updates.
- UNM Related:

HB 36	Carl Trujillo	TECH RESEARCH INVESTMENT & ADMINISTRATION	HPREF	TO ESTABLISH ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY CENTERS BASED ON THE WEALTH OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL TALENT THAT EXISTS IN PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS TO HELP FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT AND CREATION OF NEW INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY FOR THE STATE AND ENCOURAGE NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR BUSINESS AND INCREASE JOBS, HELP COMMERCIALIZE THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY, AND WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT ENTERPRISES BASED ON THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.
HB 79	Larry A. Larrañaga	HIGHER ED ENDOWMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION & USES	HPREF	CHANGING THE DISTRIBUTION PROCESS AND USES OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND, PRESCRIBING POWERS AND DUTIES; PROVIDING FOR MERIT-BASED AWARDS FROM THE HIGHER EDUCATION ENDOWMENT FUND; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.
SB 36	Timothy Keller	STATE GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT TAX CREDIT	SPREF	CREATING THE STATE GRADUATE TAX CREDIT AND STATE GRADUATE EMPLOYMENT CORPORATE INCOME TAX CREDIT. ALSO AUTHORIZING THE TAXATION AND REVENUE DEPARTMENT TO REVEAL AGGREGATE TAX CREDIT OR DEDUCTION INFORMATION TO FACILITATE A REPORT TO LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES.
SB 81	William H. Payne	UTILITY CHARGES FOR CERTAIN SCHOOLS	SPREF	RELATING TO UTILITIES; AMENDING A SECTION OF THE RENEWABLE ENERGY ACT TO EXEMPT FROM CHARGES BY A UTILITY FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENTS CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN ARTICLE 12, SECTION 11 OF THE CONSTITUTION OF NEW MEXICO IF THE INSTITUTION HAS CONSUMPTION EXCEEDING TWENTY MILLION KILOWATT-HOURS PER YEAR AT ANY SINGLE LOCATION OR FACILITY AND OWNS RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION.

- Health Sciences Center Related:

HB 8	Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson	MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT RATE INCREASE	HPREF	MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT TO FUND REIMBURSEMENT RATE INCREASES FOR CERTAIN MEDICAID PROVIDERS.
HB 78	Trujillo Jim R	TRANSFER FUNDS TO TOBACCO SETTLEMENT FUND	HPREF	TRANSFERS \$100M IN GENERAL FUND OPERATING RESERVE TO TOBACCO SETTLEMENT PERMANENT FUND. PURPOSE IS TO REBUILD THE TS PERMANENT FUND AS FUNDS HAVE BEEN DIVERTED TO THE GENERAL FUND.
SB 58	Mary Kay Papan	COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS ACT	SPREF	ESTABLISHES THE ACT. PROVIDES FOR A VOLUNTARY CERTIFICATION SPREF PROCESS TO BE ESTABLISHED BY DOH. DEFINES WHAT A COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER IS. ESTABLISHES CORE COMPETENCIES FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS.

- Capital Outlay Related:

HB55	Jim R. Trujillo	2014 WORK NM ACT- SEVERANCE TAX BOND PROJECTS	HPREF	RELATING TO CAPITAL EXPENDITURES; ENACTING THE 2014 WORK NEW MEXICO ACT; AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SEVERANCE TAX BONDS; AUTHORIZING EXPENDITURES FROM CERTAIN FUNDS AND BALANCES; CLARIFYING CONDITIONS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE EXPENDITURE OF SEVERANCE TAX BOND PROCEEDS; ESTABLISHING CONDITIONS FOR THE REVERSION OF UNEXPENDED BALANCES; MAKING APPROPRIATIONS; DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
SB 53	Carlos Cisneros	General Obligation Bond Project	SPREF	ISSUANCE AND SALE OF CAPITAL PROJECTS GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS TO MAKE CAPITAL EXPENDITURES FOR SENIOR CITIZEN FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS, FOR LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS AND FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND ACQUISITIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION, STATE SPECIAL SCHOOLS AND TRIBAL SCHOOLS. REQUIRING APPROVAL OF THE REGISTERED VOTERS AT THE 2014 GENERAL ELECTION OF THE STATE.

11. New Business and Open Discussion

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.