



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO®

Academic Affairs report to Faculty Senate

BARBARA RODRÍGUEZ

INTERIM PROVOST AND
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Leadership change at UNM-Valencia



On March 9, Dr. Laura Musselwhite was appointed interim chancellor at UNM-Valencia.

Musselwhite, who has served as dean of instruction at the campus since 2014, was appointed by Interim Provost Rodríguez after the resignation of Sam Dosumu.

Dosumu, who had been chancellor since 2022, will remain on faculty.

A national, competitive search for the next chancellor will be launched in AY2026-27 (exact timing TBD).

Celebrating 40 years of 'Scribendi'



Scribendi is a nonprofit, annual print publication produced by UNM Honors College students since 1985.

It publishes creative work for undergraduate honors students from across more than 900 institutions around the country.

This spring, UNM is honoring the 40th issue with a celebration on Saturday, April 18 at Hodgin Hall.



UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, ALBUQUERQUE

WESTERN ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP
FORUM **ANNUAL MEETING**

APRIL 1-3, 2026

Facing Complexity,

Finding Solutions



2026 Forum Annual Meeting Facing Complexity, Finding Solutions

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE)

Academic Leadership Forum – Hosted by UNM Academic Affairs.

100 participants from institutions within the WICHE region: Montana, Colorado, Arizona, Wyoming, Idaho, Nevada, North Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington

BELONG task force launched

Taskforce Sponsor

- Barbara Rodríguez, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

Co-chairs

- Pamela Cheek, Vice Provost for Student Success
- Jennifer Love, Chief of Staff, Academic Affairs



BELONG Working Groups 1-2

New Student Recruitment and Enrollment Marketing

- **Chair: Dan Garcia, Vice President for Enrollment Management**
- Matt Hulett, AVP of Enrollment Management
- Val Martinez, Director and Reporting Analytics
- Todd Hynson, Registrar and Student Services Officer, Health Sciences Center

Gen Ed and Service Course Alignment with Health Professions Tracks

- **Chair: Pamela Cheek**
- Peter Fawcett, Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences
- Cristina Takacs, Chair of Biology
- Laura de Lorenzo Barrios, Lecturer III, Department of Biochemistry & Molecular Biology
- Fred Gibbs, Assoc Dean, Univ College, Professor of History
- Erin Krufft-Johnson, CNM
- Brent Pickett, Dean of Instruction, UNM-Los Alamos

BELONG Working Group 3

Student Success and Health Profession Track Student Journey

- **Chair: Ken Cradock, Director, Pre-Health Professions**
- Stephanie Hands, Director, Office of Advising Strategies
- Kevin Schroeder, Interprofessional Education Director, HSC
- Cindy Garcia, Admissions, School of Medicine
- Jeffrey Dubinski-Neesen, Strategic Planner, College of Nursing
- Tina Zuniga, Strategic Support Manager, Vice President for Student Affairs



BELONG Working Group 4

Health Profession Undergraduate Tracks

- **Chair: Shelley McLaughlin, Associate Dean for Health Professions**
- Pam Sedillo, Student Success Manager, College of Public Health
- Marlene Sanchez, Arts & Sciences Advisor
- Teresa Vigil-Baca, MD, School of Medicine
- Krystal Ward, School of Pharmacy
- Valerie Romero-Leggott, Vice Chancellor
- Laura Burton, Executive Director, HSC Rio Rancho



BELONG Working Group 5

Fiscal Modeling

- **Chair: Nicole Dopson, Assistant Vice President for Academic Resource Management**
- Mark Maddaleni, Director, Fiscal Operations, Academic Affairs
- Sushilla Knottenbelt, Associate Dean, Arts & Sciences
- Flo Olguin, Director of Operations, Vice President for Student Affairs
- Regina Dominguez, Associate Director, Office of Planning, Budget and Analysis
- Carolyn Gutierrez, Senior Operations Manager
- Will Mehle, Associate Planning, Campus Capital and Space Planning
- Joe Wrobel, Chief Budget & Facilities Officer, HSC

AI Steering Committee launched



In February, a steering committee tasked with providing leadership on many crucial issues surrounding artificial intelligence launched at UNM.

Mark Emmons, dean of the College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences, is chairing the committee that will guide UNM's strategy around the responsible and effective use of artificial intelligence across academic, research, and administrative contexts.

This work is essential to ensuring that AI adoption enhances — rather than fragments — UNM's academic mission and operational effectiveness.

Three teams: teaching/learning, research/scholarship, administration/operations

New award for branch campus faculty

The Outstanding Professional Achievements for Branch Campus Faculty Members Award



- established to recognize recently promoted branch campus members for outstanding professional achievements in research, creative work, community-engaged scholarship, or teaching in their respective career stage.
- created to honor and acknowledge the contributions of branch campus faculty members to their fields and the broader communities served by UNM.
- candidates are nominated by the Provost's Advisory Review Committee. Nominations are submitted to the provost, who selects an awardee following a rigorous external review that looks at the quality and impact of candidates' professional achievements.

Unit 2 agreement reached



United Academics of UNM (UA-UNM) and the UNM Administration have agreed to a successor agreement for Unit 2.

Congratulations to the negotiating teams on this significant accomplishment!



Emerging Technologies

Quantum science is a rapidly advancing field with significant federal and state investment and direct relevance to New Mexico's economy.

UNM can play a central role by:

Preparing students for high-demand careers connected to the national labs and technology sector

Expanding research capacity through integrated education and training pathways

Strengthening the university's role as a driver of innovation and economic development in the state and the nation.

THANK YOU

