

Dear Colleagues,

Now that the semester is in full swing, I wanted to share a few updates and make a few requests.

The Office of Advising Strategies

The Provost's Office has asked the Office of Advising Strategies and Human Resources to conduct a study of the Advising job family classifications. The project should provide guidance to departments on the appropriate use of advisement classifications. In addition, we will update job descriptions to capture the current needs, duties, and responsibilities of advisement positions. This will be a yearlong study of main campus academic and integrated advising positions.

We plan to send out surveys, on February 2nd, to advising staff in ten (10) advising titles, to receive direct feedback on their duties and responsibilities in their own words. The study will focus on classifications providing direct academic advisement (those employed in colleges or professional schools) and integrated advisement (Student Affairs and Athletics). Supervisors will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the survey results.

Please contact Laura Valdez at lvaldez@unm.edu if you have questions about this project.

College Assessment Reports

The deadline for these is, in fact, today, January 30. Please upload these following the procedure you have used in the past or send the reports to Assessment Program Manager Julie Sanchez at assessment@unm.edu. We would like to receive these no later than February 15. Ms. Sanchez will be working on analyzing these this Spring and on developing an institutional report based on the college reports.

Higher Learning Commission Assurance Argument

An initial draft of UNM's 5-criterion Assurance Argument is being revised and critiqued by members of UNM's HLC Steering Committee. The Evidence Room for the full report is being assembled electronically with the gracious support of University Libraries. Many thanks to Joe Suilmann, to the Steering Committee and Criterion committees, as well as to the Library faculty for their work on this. There will be an opportunity for UNM community critique and comment once the draft is more mature.

The Office of Assessment and Academic Program Review

The Office is staffed by Program Planning Manager Julie Sanchez, APR Specialist Kyle Farris, and Data Specialist Charla Henley. Ms. Sanchez (assessment@unm.edu) is available to support departments and programs as they develop or rework their assessment to identify opportunities for improving student learning. Mr. Farris (apr@unm.edu) supports the Academic Program Review process. I will be convening a faculty committee this Spring to provide oversight of the APR process with a focus on more attention to research and better overall integration of assessment and APR processes. Data Specialist Charla Henley will be focusing on data accessibility, organization and aggregation for APR

and Assessment.

Faculty Senate Task Force on General Education

The recommendations of the Faculty Senate Task Force on General Education were approved and endorsed by the Faculty Senate on Jan. 23 and the Dean's Council on Jan. 18. The [full report](#) recommends a two-stage approach at UNM: First, that our current core curriculum adapt rapidly, with as little change as possible, to state legislative requirements. Second, that we adopt a slower, careful process to renovate the core at UNM to reflect our mission as a research university. This process will engage faculty, staff and a leadership team in working together to integrate teaching and learning around research, diversity, community-engagement, writing, and innovation into a General Education Program. Thank you to the members of the Task Force for their hard work. The Office of the Provost will publish information about the general education renovation as the process moves forward. I am working on a plan of action for implementation at UNM as well as communications about the state requirements for general education course certification. I will be consulting many of you in the weeks ahead.

Advanced Placement and the Higher Education Department

HED staff compiled the policies for Advanced Placement credit used across the state into the proposed statewide AP policy (attached). Please discuss these AP standards with your faculty and share their feedback with me for communication to HED by **March 9, 2018**. (For more information about AP, please visit AP Central Courses, <https://apcentral.collegeboard.org/courses>. After clicking the desired AP Course, the toolbar on the next page has Course, and Exam, along with other options. The Exam section has information regarding scoring, and the Course includes the detailed description of the course. Both tabs include sample question, but the Exam tab also has information regarding the grading of the exam.

If your faculty would like more information, please let me know and we will get them in touch with a representative of College Board.) This HED initiative is similar to common course numbering in that seeks to establish uniform standards for lower-division course work and equivalencies. A statewide AP policy is currently an HED initiative, but a bill has been proposed to the legislature that might codify uniform AP standards into law.

Thank you for attending to all of this and for your support of my ongoing work on curriculum, HLC and assessment. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly with any questions at apcurriculum@unm.edu.

Best wishes,

Pamela