



HIGHER LEARNING COMMISSION

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TO: Sandra Gault, Evaluation Team Chair

FROM: Robert Rucker, Manager for Compliance and Complex Evaluations

DATE: February 5, 2019

RE: University of New Mexico – Third-Party Comments

CC: Garnett Stokes, President, University of New Mexico
Joseph Suilmann, Accreditation Program Manager, University of New Mexico
Mary Vanis, Vice President for Accreditation Relations, Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) received the enclosed third-party comments regarding University of New Mexico in preparation for the Open Pathway comprehensive evaluation scheduled to start on March 4, 2019. We expect that you will share this information with the team and address the third-party comments during the visit and in the team report, as applicable. Typically, the comments will serve to form a basis for inquiry of appropriate issues by the team. Any decisions made by the team should rest on evidence gained from the visit itself. Certain comments may include information that has been redacted at the request of the commenter or because the commenter did not clearly indicate an understanding that HLC would forward comments to both the team and the institutional leadership.

Should you have any questions regarding the process for third-party comments, please contact HLC's Legal and Governmental Affairs office at legalaffairs@hlcommission.org.

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment
Date: Monday, February 4, 2019 at 11:28:13 AM Central Standard Time
From: Toney Begay <tbegay@nmmesa.org>
To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: Toney Begay

Email: tbegay@nmmesa.org

Address: 2808 Central Ave SE

City: Albuquerque

State: NM

Zipcode: 87106

Redact Identifying Information: No

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: New Mexico Math, Engineering, Science Achievement, Inc. (NM MESA) is a year-round, multi-year initiative that works directly with school districts and institutions of higher education to:

- Improve student performance in math and science
- Increase college enrollment in math, science, and engineering
- Provide hands-on math, science, and engineering programs and competitions
- Meet the national call for engineers, mathematicians, and scientists.

In 1981, in collaboration with the University of New Mexico (UNM), the first NM MESA Advisory Council created NM MESA.

NM MESA is based on a model that originated at the University of California at Berkeley in 1970. From its meager start in 1982, NM MESA now provides thousands of middle, junior, and high school students with year-round support and career guidance.

While NM MESA is a non-profit, statewide organization operating within the public education system, NM MESA is linked directly to the state's higher education institutions.

NM MESA headquarters is hosted by New Mexico Tech in a facility across from the University of New Mexico Albuquerque campus. All six Regional statewide offices are co-located with other institutions of higher education.

Two are on UNM's campuses:

- Central Inner and Outer: University of New Mexico Student Service Center
- West: University of New Mexico-Gallup

NM MESA partners with UNM for various projects and events. With the help of UNM, we usually hosts our state championship of engineering design and STEM academic competition on UNM's campus. UNM has always been very accommodating and supportive to NM MESA in accomplishing its mission.

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment

Date: Friday, February 1, 2019 at 11:32:40 PM Central Standard Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Redact Identifying Information: Yes

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: I love this university but they don't have a proper biochemistry department. The instructors need to want their students to succeed not bury them. The biology department needs works as well. If a student switches from biochem to biology for example they won't take biology 304. They make you take s lower biology class. Things like this make no sense. I graduated 28 years ago and the programs were structured for success but it's seems the sciences at least want these kids to fail. As a poor state we should want success in these students.

Thank you

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment
Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 5:57:10 PM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Redact Identifying Information: Yes

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: Please pay special attention to the the Office of Faculty Contracts here at UNM. Many administrators are concerned about possible illegal hires due to their failure to follow proper hiring procedures. The office should be reviewed with a fine-toothed comb.

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment
Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2019 at 9:30:13 AM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Redact Identifying Information: Yes

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: There is a long standing concern about funding priorities at the University of NM. Funding priorities for athletics and not for crumbling buildings, reliable technology and software systems, campus security, faculty/staff salaries, professional development for faculty/staff. Austerity measures are still in place and this affects the quality of the faculty and staff employed at UNM. Faculty and staff are stretched thin trying to "do more with less" for so many years. This affects the education of the students. Athletics runs a deficit for years, and the university doesn't mind. But some of the buildings are literally crumbling. The College of Nursing building has a crack running through the center. Staff and faculty get minimal wage increases... inconsistently. I've worked years without a cost of living increase. There is a high turnover of staff and faculty and orientation/training each time costs the university quite a bit of money. There is no transparency as to UNM spending.

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 10:53:37 AM Central Standard Time

From: [REDACTED]

To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED].

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Redact Identifying Information: Yes

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: First, it would be nice for the evaluation team to visit all of University's campus locations.

Second, discrimination does exist on a department to department and campus to campus level. This hinders the staffs ability to perform duties and support students. A mandate for equal treatment of all campus locations and between all departments should exist and the granting of courtesies should not exist unless it is granted to all.

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment
Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 2:36:37 PM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Redact Identifying Information: No

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: I am an Emeritus (Full) Professor at UNM. During my tenure at UNM, I was heavily involved in Faculty governance ([REDACTED] Faculty Senate President, [REDACTED] Chair of the Committee on Governance, Chair of my Department several years, Chair of Faculty tenure/promotion committees, etc.) and was an active researcher ([REDACTED]). What are the three most important components of any institution of higher education? Answer: (1) current students, (2) alums of the institution, and (3) staff and faculty of the institution. Component #3 retains the all-important institutional memory. In my opinion, the single critical factor that has prevented UNM from being the quality as it should be is the decades long practice of regent appointments. That practice has resulted, by and large, in the selection of individuals who have little knowledge of institutions of higher education and often have an outright disdain for important components of the institution (check my November, 2018, Opinion piece, Albuquerque Journal). When I joined UNM in [REDACTED] two of the regents did not have college degrees; one did not have a high school diploma! This is insulting and demoralizing. Throw in the simple well-known fact that faculty (and staff) at UNM are NOT paid as well as they should be, and you have a recipe for mediocrity. Despite this, several Departments at UNM are of impressively high quality, or at least have been. And just why is that I wonder?

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment
Date: Thursday, January 24, 2019 at 9:00:40 PM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Redact Identifying Information: Yes

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: UNM is a great school, but I wish the Student Family Housing was more updated and had better security. The campus is really nice, wish they had better study places like CNM, our community college offers. I also wish they had a more broad selection of biology degrees.

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment
Date: Friday, January 25, 2019 at 11:14:01 PM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Redact Identifying Information: Yes

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: Overall UNM gave me a goof education over the course of about six years I attended. However, Tuition is far too high and rising at an alarming rate. Also, many professors use slides taken directly from teachers editions of expensive text books and even use many of their quizzes. This is appalling as the overpriced tuition previously mentioned should go to experts in their field giving me their own knowledge, not to watch someone use corporate notes I could easily purchase myself for much cheaper.

January 26, 2019



Attn:

Third-Party Comment on University of New Mexico
Higher Learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411

The University of New Mexico needs to address their nepotism policy in hiring of instructors. Full time faculty should not be allowed to hire their children, grandchildren, and spouses to fill openings in their departments' and subject areas. This creates an intimidating environment for students.

A clear example is the Dance Program's hiring has been very sketchy for over a decade. Associate Professor Vladmir Conde Reche teaches some of the ballet sections and his wife Simone Di Petro Reche is hired adjunct to teach all other sections not taught by her husband. Professor Eva Enciñas teaches about a third of the flamenco courses and her daughter Lecturer II Marisol Enciñas and her grandson adjunct Nevarez Enciñas teaches the rest of the other courses. Beyond close blood relatives, other adjunct instructor's such as Sarah Williams Gonzales and Jacqueline Garcia are employed by Eva Enciñas nonprofit organization.

It is surprising to see that there are no checks and balances for nepotism in a public institution and UNM's inability to control nepotism within its faculty hiring lends itself to questioning the level of integrity of instruction the school offers to its students. Many complaints have been made about the nepotism at UNM for decades; it has been brought up in community and faculty forums on many occasions yet it continues. I hope that as part of the accreditation process establishing fair hiring practices that support diverse faculty will be recommended as it affects students, recruitment and retention, as well as student satisfaction outcomes and the institutions reputation.

Thank you!

Please remove all of my personal identifying information from my comment.



Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment
Date: Monday, January 21, 2019 at 7:48:20 PM Central Standard Time
From: [REDACTED]
To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Address: [REDACTED]

City: [REDACTED]

State: [REDACTED]

Zipcode: [REDACTED]

Redact Identifying Information: Yes

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: I am thankful for the Western Exchange scholarship program for students living in other west coast states. As a teacher of an elite private school that also goes through the accreditation process, I know that it is important to teach in a manner that creates engaged learners. What has been surprising to me, is that prior to taking certain courses, such as accounting, computer science, and others required for the business school, my son was told by his advisor that it is normal that to have to re-take the class(es) two to three times in order to pass! I understand the "weed out" process, but when professors set up classes for students to fail, they lose scholarships. A professor's goal should be to create engaging, challenging, and relevant curriculum and teach it in a manner in which students can succeed. That should be the goal. If a student is working hard, they should be able to pass. When a significant number of students are failing, that is a failure on the professor's part. Yet, that seems to be the goal of several classes... to fail them.

January 22 2019

Third Party Comment (University of New Mexico)
Higher learning Commission
230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500
Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411



Federal Compliance process - Third-Party Comments

Suggestion 1-

There needs to be more interdisciplinary work going on. The College of Education and the School of Architecture and Planning are planning an interdisciplinary course in Design Education, a subject which will include Architecture and the Environment and creative self expression for students P/ K-12+ everywhere. Why isn't more of this non-traditional, new thinking taking place at the University and in our public schools. It would seem to me, because we are 50th in the United States academically in the public schools, that a priority of the University of New Mexico would be to raise that bar, educate our pre-services teachers who then can educate children differently with imagination, creativity, problem solving and help to change those dreadful test score results on which teachers are evaluated. Need a special UNM task force to meet this need.

Suggestion 2 -

Make sure women faculty and staff are making the same amounts of money. I worked at UNM as a full professor for 36 years and was always paid less than men professors. My credentials were equal to if not better than many men professor, yet I still made less money. And new professors came into the university with a starting salary that was what we were making after many years contributing to UNM.

Suggestion 3

Look at the dreadful finances of the sports department and check out the UNM Press which has sent all books for warehousing to North Carolina. As an author I had no say in the transfer of the books and it is now making it damn difficult to get books and we have to pay shipping. It was not our decision, nor were we consulted or told. Some administrative decision making needs to be examined and curtailed. The administration and faculty are NOT a team going in the same direction.

Anne Taylor, Ph.D.
Regents and Distinguished Professor Emerita
School of Architecture and Planning
UNM
9 Tumbleweed NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87120
aetaylor@unm.edu

Subject: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM Third-Party Comment
Date: Monday, January 21, 2019 at 2:05:03 PM Central Standard Time
From: Sumanth Reddy Thummala <sreddythummala@unm.edu>
To: Third Party <thirdparty@hlcommission.org>

Third-Party Comment

Name: Sumanth Reddy Thummala

Email: sreddythummala@unm.edu

Address: 420 Redondo East
Albuquerque
New Mexico- 87106
United States of America

City: Albuquerque

State: New Mexico

Zipcode: 87106

Redact Identifying Information: No

Institution: 1511 - University of New Mexico - NM

Comments: I think UNM needs more International Students in its Student Governments. I am a 4th year student and I did not have any idea about such organizations until my second semester of third year. Making it accessible to people of color and different ethnic backgrounds, would definitely make this great university a wonderful one. ☑