

Our next meeting will be on Monday, February 19, 2018, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., at the **Church Street Cafe**. This restaurant is located at 2111 Church Street NW (In Old Town). Our speaker will be **Professor Richard Wood** ( Director: Southwest Institute of Religion/Culture/Society; Interim Sr Vice Provost: Provost Office Staff ).

**TITLE: University of New Mexico: Context and Politics**

**ABSTRACT:** Richard Wood will speak on recent events concerning higher education in the state of New Mexico and at the University of New Mexico.

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**BIO for Interim Senior Vice Provost Richard Wood:**

Richard Wood holds a Ph.D. in sociology from UC-Berkeley, an M.A. degree in theology from the Graduate Theological Union, and a B.A. in chemistry from UC-Davis. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses on democracy & political culture, religion, social theory, and ethnographic research methods. Wood studies the cultural and institutional dynamics that strengthen or erode democratic life, particularly those linked to religion. He has served in a variety of roles including president of the faculty senate, chair of the sociology department and special advisor for strategic initiatives in the Provost's office, among other leadership roles. Wood was raised in northern New Mexico; he and his spouse Dana Bell raised their two now-adult children in Albuquerque.