



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good morning and welcome back from what I hope was an enjoyable spring break.

The U.S. President released his "[skinny budget](#)" also known as the "Blueprint Budget" this past Thursday, so-called because this budget submission contains top-line numbers with little program-level detail. As you know, Congress authorizes and appropriates, and is responsible for developing a Congressional budget that sets parameters for annual appropriation bills. The President's document has been given a lukewarm reception at best from Capitol Hill Republicans and an all-out rebuke from Democrats. Indeed, although this proposal is only the first step in the annual appropriation process, it raises the possibility of cuts that could impact many programs at UNM and in our state and nation. As an FYI, attached is an overview of the President's fiscal year (FY) 2018 "[skinny budget](#)" released by the Administration.

I'd like to outline the actual federal budget process that starts out in the House. Once the House members have developed a budget proposal for fiscal year 2018, it's sent over to the Senate. The Senate modifies it and negotiations proceed until the budget is approved by both the House and Senate. This is strictly a Congressional process--the President does not approve the Congressional budget. The Congressional budget sets top line numbers, then the appropriations subcommittees are responsible for distributing dollars annually based on those top line numbers. The House and Senate Appropriations Committees will soon begin their budget oversight hearings.

We continue to see public opposition to the President's initial proposals by various House and Senate Members. Of particular concern to UNM is the administration's proposed zeroing of the budgets of the National Endowment of the Arts and the National Endowment of the Humanities, as well as large cuts to the National Institutes of Health and other research programs. Universities and higher education organizations such as [APLU](#), [AAAS](#), and advocates such as the [NHA](#) have already started providing feedback to members of congress regarding the President's budget and its effects on education and research funding across the arts, humanities, and the sciences.

I know many of you are very concerned about the executive budget blueprint. Faculty, students, and staff may share their concerns and provide input through Connie Beimer, director of UNM's Office of Government Relations or call 277-1670. As the congressional budgeting process matures, we will continue to assemble analysis on impacts to UNM for communication and coordination with our federal delegation, appropriate Congressional committees, and the relevant professional associations.

Women's History Month

"America honors the celebrated women pioneers and leaders in our history, as well as those unsung women heroes of our daily lives. We honor those outstanding women, whose contributions to our Nation's life, culture, history, economy, and families have shaped us and helped us fulfill America's promise."

- [2017 White House Proclamation](#)

Since the first [International Women's Day](#), in 1911, Women's History Month has been celebrated – in one way or another – in the United States. Since 1987, the month of March has been devoted to learning about and celebrating the role of women in history.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we here at UNM pay tribute to all the women who are part of our institutional success, and the success of our communities and our nation. As we celebrate the achievements of the past and those that are yet to come, we honor the courageous and pioneering women, the passionate students driven by curiosity, the dedicated faculty members, the committed staff members, and the countless alumnae who continue to create a legacy of remarkable contributions.

Next UNM Town Hall

The next campus town hall will be held on Tuesday, March 28 at the Student Union Building (SUB), Lobo Rooms A & B from 12:30 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. I am asking the campus community to submit questions in advance to unmpres@unm.edu so I can prepare for all topics of interest. For best consideration, please submit your questions by Friday, March 24. The event will be live-streamed, and will be archived on the president's web site.

Chaouki T. Abdallah

Acting President

Follow me on Twitter [@chaoukita](#)

There is so much more that happens on the UNM campus than can be conveyed in a weekly message. To find out about the latest stories and events, please visit the [UNM Newsroom](#), the central source of news and information for the UNM community.