



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

In describing what the federal budget supports, and indeed what UNM does, I am reminded of Robert R. Wilson, who was part of the Manhattan Project then later tapped to head Fermi Laboratory. In 1969, Wilson was called on to justify the Project's multimillion-dollar budget to the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy. Surprisingly, Wilson emphasized it had nothing at all to do with national security. He [said](#), "It only has to do with the respect with which we regard one another, the dignity of men, our love of culture... It has to do with: Are we good painters, good sculptors, great poets? I mean all the things that we really venerate and honor in our country and are patriotic about. In that sense, this new knowledge has all to do with honor and country but it has nothing to do directly with defending our country except to help make it worth defending."

Public Media Funding

Last week, I described the president's proposed "skinny budget" and mentioned many of the programs whose funding UNM is concerned about. I did not mean to be exclusive and was reminded of other entities facing potential cuts such as public media and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB). UNM holds a license to an NPR station and shares the license of a PBS station. Eliminating federal funding for the CPB will have a devastating impact on the mission of two mainstays of the UNM community. The impact for KUNM would be a loss of nearly \$252,000 on Oct. 1 of this year. I encourage everyone to become informed by visiting the national advocacy site, [Protect My Public Media](#) and you can get additional details in the article on this topic in today's [Daily Lobo](#).

LoboThon

It's an event that will keep you on your feet—literally. The fourth annual [LoboTHON](#), UNM's fundraising dance marathon, which will be held Saturday, April 1 at Johnson Center, will have our students remain dancing or standing for 13.25 hours to benefit the kids of UNM Children's Hospital. I am happy to be a part of the fundraising events this year, challenging all of you to raise \$1,889 today in honor of the University's founding year. If the "[Chaouki Challenge](#)" reaches this goal, you will all have the pleasure of seeing one of the Miracle Children "pie" me in the face. Please consider taking the challenge!

Gray Area Training

Last week, an email was sent to all students, staff and faculty regarding "[The Grey Area](#)" training that is required for nearly all UNM students. As part of our [ongoing initiative to create a safe environment](#) for all students and community members, students are required to take the in-person, interactive training. The workshop teaches students to engage in healthy and positive relationships in an atmosphere that promotes

student success. It is required for all existing and incoming undergraduate and graduate students who are in a degree granting program for six-credit hours or more. The first workshops have already been filled, but the [LoboRESPECT Advocacy Center](#) is currently working to schedule more trainings in subsequent weeks.

UNM Elections

Representing campus constituents is a difficult, but important responsibility. ASUNM, GPSA, Staff Council and Faculty Senate are among the critical bodies who, along with many other responsibilities, advise the Board of Regents on your interests and needs.

Whether you are actively involved with one of these organizations or not, you can make an impact by voting for their respective leaders. Several campus-wide elections are happening in the next couple of weeks. I hope that you will take some time to learn about the candidates and vote.

- [ASUNM](#) will hold its Presidential / Vice Presidential election on Wednesday, March 29 at the SUB, Zimmerman Library, SRC Commons and online on [MyUNM](#). ASUNM Senatorial elections will be on April 13 and 19.
- GPSA Presidential Elections will take place between April 3 and 6. An email will be sent to graduate and professional students with a link to vote.
- Staff are asked to vote between today and Friday, March 31, on [Staff Council](#) Grade Representatives. Voting ballots will be emailed to all staff members eligible to vote.

Town Hall

I hope to see many of you at the Town Hall gathering tomorrow, March 28, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in SUB Lobo A&B. Many interesting questions have been submitted to unmpres@unm.edu, so we will have a wide range of topics to address. The event will be live-streamed on the [UNM FaceBook](#) page and the event will also be available on [FaceBook](#) for those who wish to watch at a different time.

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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.