



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Update from APLU Meeting

Last week, I attended the Association of Public & Land-Grant Universities (APLU) council of presidents meeting in Washington, D.C. Aside from the discussions surrounding immigration and international students, freedom of expression and safe spaces, the APLU presidents discussed concerns around the proposed guidelines of the President's budget to limit the overhead (F&A) reimbursement to universities (currently around 50 percent at UNM) to no more than 10 percent, starting with National Institutes of Health (NIH) research. While Congressional voices have come up in opposition, if overhead were to be lowered, it would place further stress on our budget as well as on our capability of conducting research.

Another specific topic was the adoption of small retention and completion grants for students as an effective student success intervention. UNM was actually a pioneer in this area and currently funds about 1,200 students at about \$800 each. The university presidents also discussed an upcoming initiative to "[address the complex and diverse challenges of food and nutrition insecurity](#)." Finally, and while we do not expect the President's budget to be adopted as proposed, UNM estimates a total loss in Student Aid under the proposed budget to be around \$3,164,198 per year.

Planning for the Future

This morning I shared a [slide presentation](#) with members of the university administration outlining the rationale and initial direction re-engineering the university. This is outlined in broad strokes and intended to be the beginning of critical and immediate conversations in which we need to engage on how UNM remains relevant, strong and adaptable in a rapidly changing landscape.

"Freedom is nothing but a chance to be better."

~ Albert Camus

On the Fourth of July, we celebrate our declaration of independence with family gatherings, barbecues, festivals, parades, and fireworks. While we celebrate these events, let us never forget the significance of the Fourth of July, a day in 1776 when the first soon-to-be Americans declared their autonomy from tyranny through the birth of a nation founded upon the ideals of liberty and democracy. In honor of both this national holiday and the dedication of our hard-working staff and faculty, the university will be closed on the third and fourth of July. I wish you all a fun and safe holiday weekend!

Until next time.

Chaouki T. Abdallah

Acting President

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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.