SPECIAL MEETING OF THE REGENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO April 2, 2010

Comments Regarding the Strategic Task Force & others who contributed to the Cost Containment Identification Efforts

Regent Sanchez: A lot of people were involved in putting together the package that the president is going to be presenting today. He, in fact, had appointed a President's Strategic Advisory Team. And the regents have received that package. We've reviewed it very carefully. And on behalf of the Regents, I want to thank that Strategic Advisory Team for the time and effort that they put into this endeavor. You really did a wonderful job. If any of those members of that advisory team are here, would you please stand? We'd like to thank each and every one. (Applause.) Thank you very, very much for having put in the time to do this for us.

Regent Gallegos: I just wanted to mention about the advisory team: don't consider your work finished! Stay at it, I'm sure you can find more cost containments.

President Schmidly: We looked first at cost containment and you'll be seeing a lot of details on that and Raymond has mentioned the work of the advisory group that helped me with this.

Provost Ortega: I should point out, as is true at Health Sciences and across the university, many of the strategies recommended by the President's advisory committee have been implemented.

Executive Vice President Harris: An issue came up with the Strategic Initiatives Task Force that there should be some investigation done of the prospect of buying out our conservation contract.

President Schmidly: As the President of the Board mentioned, I appointed a Presidential Advisory Team. Many of those individuals are here today. I think they did an outstanding job in a short time. They did not have time to do detailed implementation plans on each cost containment item. They did the best they could in giving us the best estimate they could with the time they had as to what that might say.

President Schmidly: In the administrative area, these are the projected savings. ... These "x"s show the recommendations from the advisory team in these areas. They were not matched dollar for dollar, but they were very close.

President Schmidly: It was commented earlier that they hoped this advisory group would stay together, maybe even expand some, and that's definitely going to have to happen. Because with that kind of number right there, and with the projection I showed you earlier, we could still have declining appropriations. Then it's clear to me that cost containment has to be our biggest strategy.