Good morning and welcome back! I hope that everyone had a restful and relaxing holiday vacation, and know that we all look forward to a productive spring semester.

**International Partnerships to Support UNM**

Last week, I led a small delegation to Japan for a series of meetings designed to enhance an already strong partnership between UNM and the Japanese government, select Japanese universities, and key private corporations. The trip was a follow-up to a visit to UNM by the University Consortium for International Intellectual Property Coordination (UCIP), a consortium of the technology transfer offices for 11 Japanese universities.

UCIP co-hosted an international workshop that featured presentations from Professors Plamen Atanassov and Andrea Mammoli of the UNM Center for Emerging Energy Technologies, Engineering Dean Catalin Roman, and STC.UNM President Lisa Kuuttila. Additionally, we had productive meetings with the Ministry of Economic Trade and Industry (METI) and the New Energy and Industrial Technology Department (NEDO), organizations that have a long history of supporting emerging energy research at UNM.

**2014 Legislative Session**

Today marks the beginning of the 2014 Legislative Session. The legislature will address many issues of great importance to UNM, including the lottery scholarship, new funding formula, and funding levels for higher education in FY15. The Office of Government and Community Relations (OGCR) will be working diligently on behalf of UNM throughout the session, and will be providing updates on progress and highlights of legislative activity throughout the session. Visit Government Relations to sign up for OGCR legislative updates, access the UNM bill tracker, and see analysis of the Legislative Finance Committee and Department of Finance and Administration’s budget recommendations for higher education.

**FY15 Budget Development Process Underway**

The process to develop the university budget for fiscal year 2014-15 is underway. Building on the success of prior years, we are again convening the Strategic Budget Leadership Team (SBLT) to guide the process and make recommendations on budget priorities and funding levels. The charge of the SBLT has been broadened to include the implementation of the Results Oriented Management (ROM) budget model in FY15. As a result, we have expanded the membership of SBLT, increasing faculty and dean representation and adding committee members to represent the branch campuses and research office. For additional information on the FY15 budget process and the ROM implementation, visit Budget Development.

**National Leadership in American Indian Education**

UNM Director of American Indian Student Services and Special Assistant to the President for American Indian Affairs Pam Agoyo has been appointed to the Board of Trustees for the Cobell Education Office.
Scholarship fund by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell. The scholarship fund, which was authorized by the Cobell Settlement, provides financial assistance to Native American students wishing to pursue post-secondary education and training. Additionally, Pam is currently serving as the President of the National Indian Education Association, a post that she assumed in November. Congratulations to Pam on these accomplishments, and for all that she and her team do to support our students at UNM. For more information, view the Department of the Interior press release.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob