



President's Weekly Perspective

Good morning.

For the entire University, our budget process has been top of mind over recent weeks as we work to find sustainable solutions to advance the institution, value the people who serve it, and keep it affordable for our students. This has been a complex year with many challenges and important initiatives – all of which require financial investment and support. Although we were very successful at this year's Legislative session, the needs we have as a Carnegie Very High Research Activity Institution that serves the entire state are greater than what we received and have mustered through savings and cost-cutting measures. Our efforts included the reallocation of \$3 million through the Results Oriented Management (ROM) process and \$2.5 million from tuition and fees due to enrollment growth. We are minimizing all fixed cost increases and eliminating all new funding requests for fiscal year 2015. In response to both our budget constraints and inevitable changes that will occur under the Affordable Care Act, we have taken an opportunity to carefully examine our [benefits package](#). We must remain educated on these changes and find ways to adapt and position ourselves with the least amount of hardship to our employees. We will persist with our commitment to our employees and to good fiscal stewardship, so that UNM will continue to thrive long into the future. To honor this commitment, we must be able to recruit and retain outstanding faculty and staff. Concurrently, we must be judicious in the deployment of our financial resources, with pragmatic evaluations of economic realities and the changing competitive landscape for higher education.

Gates Foundation Study

Last week, I had the opportunity to participate on an expert panel with the Education Advisory Board and Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to discuss the cost of higher education. Since my appointment as President, we have worked to develop analyses and models to better understand the cost drivers of the University, and have developed tools that allow us to incorporate this information into our planning processes. UNM was joined by representatives from four other universities, including the University of Florida and Arizona State University. Our seat at this table is a testament to the exemplary work being done at UNM in terms of understanding our cost drivers and developing mechanisms to maximize the value of the education that we deliver. This work will further evolve as we continue the implementation of our Results Oriented Management (ROM) budget model to link resource allocations to performance.

Expanding the Lobo Culture

I am sure that over the past few years many of you have noticed that I often refer to the Lobo, our mascot, and never hesitate to talk about my Lobo Pride. Many of my perspectives relate to the meaning behind our mascot, and most of my writings end with "Go Lobos." On more than one occasion I have been told that there is a perception that the Lobo solely represents UNM athletics. I would like us all to consider changing that perception – after all, "everyone's a Lobo." I firmly believe that the Lobo spirit represents all of us, on the court and in the classroom, in our labs and in the community. Whether you are a student, alum, staff or faculty member, parent or fan, you are a Lobo. Jackie Esposito, a university archivist at Penn State, once said, "Mascots embody that desire to support your school and are a visual representation of what we believe to be the best parts of our school or organization." True, the Lobo

was selected as the mascot for the UNM football team because it “is respected for his cunning, feared for his prowess, and is the leader of the pack,” but more than 70 years later the Lobo represents a distinct and shared culture of leadership, courage and team mentality at UNM and in New Mexico.

Wolf Fest at UNM

UNM has enjoyed many visits by wolves from the [Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary \(WSWS\)](#) and I am excited to spread word that a WSWS team will be back on campus this week for Wolf Fest. This upcoming Friday, the UNM Biology Undergraduate Society (BUGS) is sponsoring [Wolf Fest 2014](#) on Smith Plaza from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. BUGS aims to increase awareness of the endangerment of the New Mexico Grey Wolf, the Lobo, as well as other native species with this annual event. Other local groups, including Hawks Aloft, Project Coyote and WildEarth Guardians, will join BUGS. The sanctuary does a lot to better the lives of its inhabitants, and I am proud to know that our community supports their compassion.

Commencement Ceremonies Reminder

It seems hard to believe, but spring commencement is only a month away. I would like to remind all of our students who plan to graduate this semester to read the [commencement ceremony instructions](#) posted by the Office of the University Secretary. As I mentioned in February, this will be the first year that UNM will hold two separate ceremonies, which will more effectively recognize the efforts of both our graduate and undergraduate students. The deadline to RSVP for either ceremony is Friday, April 11.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob