



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Student engagement in shared governance is critical to the success of any university, especially to a public research university such as UNM. During this spring semester, in particular, I have heard from a number of formal and informal student organizations, as well as individual students, that we need to find additional ways to ensure that all voices can be heard in order to maintain an accountable, inclusive and transparent community.

Improving Student Engagement

I believe we can always do better... continuously improving our university and the ways we do business. We can always commit ourselves to finding solutions rather than providing excuses. In order to hear more student voices, the Provost and I will create a student cabinet as an additional way to engage students, who are vital to our success. This cabinet will facilitate communication to a broader cross-section of undergraduate and graduate students. It will act as a forum for discussion on campus issues important to students, such as academic affairs, student affairs, financial and other critical issues, with the goal of bettering our institution. The Student Cabinet is in no way intended to interfere with the operation and structure of our Student Governments, and will not replace the current formal representation from our elected student leaders who we will continue to meet and work with. However, it will allow for an additional sounding board for students and the administration to communicate on all aspects of the student experience. We will be announcing the process for nominations and applications for the Student Cabinet later this week. I am looking forward to improving the level of student engagement and would like to thank our students for their passion and involvement in our university.

Law School Demonstrates Value of UNM Degree

The strength and versatility of a legal education from the UNM School of Law serves our graduates well to work within our communities to provide service and develop leadership. UNM School of Law graduates find employment in every part of the legal profession, as well as in non-legal careers where a law degree is a substantial asset - private practice, government, public service, business, academia, and the judiciary.

The National Law Journal recently analyzed data collected by the [American Bar Association and ranked the UNM School of Law 18th](#) in the nation for having the most 2013 graduates in large firms, federal and state clerkships, and government and public interest jobs. When it comes to our students finding government jobs we ranked 14th. A UNM legal education prepares students for a lifetime, and these rankings reflect that our students are leaving UNM with the skills and experience to succeed with their career paths. Congratulations to our faculty for creating the programs leading to this success.

Enhancing Education Through Shared Knowledge

We are fortunate to have some excellent lectures this week, offering insight into the future of engineering and mental health. Professor Ivan Deutsch, whom I had previously referenced as being

selected as UNM's 59th Annual Research Lecturer, presents "[Breaking Heisenberg: Controlling the Quantum World](#)," tonight at 6:30 in the Centennial Engineering Center Auditorium. Tomorrow evening, we welcome Dr. Patrick DeLeon at the SUB discussing "[A Vision of the Future: Regulation & Integration of Mental Health and Primary Care](#)." Dr. DeLeon, who is past president of the American Psychological Association and a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies, will be sharing his expertise in psychology and public policy. Dr. DeLeon has been the leading advocate for psychologists' and nurse's greater involvement in the public policy process. As long-term staff member of U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye of Hawaii, where he served as Chief of Staff for many years, Dr. DeLeon is extremely well versed in the art of politics and the advocacy process. I am so pleased that he has taken the time to visit our campus and share his knowledge with us.

Commencement Ceremony Change of Venue

Having "too many" students walk at the [Graduate Commencement Ceremony](#) is a great problem to have, and to that end I do need to share with everyone that the ceremony for our graduate students has been moved to the Johnson Center, which is directly east of Popejoy Hall. More students will participate in the ceremony than originally anticipated, and this change allows us to accommodate all of our graduates and their guests; we will have signage and volunteers directing people to the event. For more information, visit: [Spring Commencement 2014](#).

Finally, I would like to congratulate Dr. Denece Kesler, Clinical Education professor in Epidemiology, who will be honored this weekend at the American Occupational Health Conference, with the 2014 Health Achievement in Occupational Medicine Award.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob