



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Encouraging a Community Culture of Respect

Social media has created a lot of change in our society, some of which has been for the best and some not. It continues to change the way we interact (or don't), the way we observe, even the way we think. New social media platforms continue to pop up and major platforms change regularly, which creates new ways to communicate, discover and inspire. These websites and apps create endless possibilities, for growth of positive innovation and, unfortunately, for negativity.

Within higher education there seem to be new trends with every incoming class for connections and communication. They can help facilitate student discussion about class topics or events on campus. They can be humorous or thought provoking. They can also open the doors for anonymous personal attacks, blatant racism and prejudicial and offensive comments.

Most recently, [Yik Yak](#) has opened the doors for such communication. On some university campuses, social apps like [Yik Yak have taken an ugly turn](#). This is not always the case for our University, but cyberbullying is a serious problem and it should be clear that the University supports a respectful campus climate that encourages learning and personal growth.

I wanted to write about this to stress that it is up to all of us to maintain a respectful campus community. Personally, I enjoy [twitter](#) because it is a great way to connect and listen to so many people on campus. Social media is great for exciting news or campus events, but it is disheartening to see the rare but impactful attack on any of our students, staff or faculty.

As I said in my Freshman Convocation Speech this year, words have meaning. They have power. What might seem funny or meaningless at first could be very hurtful to someone else. I hope you all will think before you tweet, before you post, share and yak.

General Obligation Bond C (GO Bond)

Absentee voting for New Mexico will begin tomorrow and in-person early voting will start on Saturday, Oct. 18. I urge everyone to vote and let your voice be heard for the future of New Mexico. Tomorrow is also the last day to register for the [2014 general election](#).

One of the statewide ballot issues that will impact UNM, as well most universities in New Mexico, is [General Obligation Bond C](#). GO Bond C will provide more than \$139 million in [higher education](#) funding, which will support facility updates and new technologies. This investment in higher education across the state will support the New Mexico economy with approximately 1,400 new jobs. For UNM, \$39 million will support our engineering and health sciences facilities as well as our branch campuses. The GO Bond will not raise taxes. I strongly encourage you to talk with your family and friends about the GO Bonds and why they are important for our students and for the state. UNM needs your support on General Obligation Bond C.

Alumni Award Call for Nominations

Finally, I am happy to make the call for nominations to my fellow alumni for four [Alumni Association Awards](#). With renowned Lobos around the world, I have no doubt that there will be many deserving alumni nominated for the four prestigious awards: Faculty Teaching Award, Erna S. Fergusson Award, Bernard S. Rodey Award, and James F. Zimmerman Award. The nomination deadline for these awards is Friday, Nov. 7.

Have a great week and fall break and Go Lobos!

Bob