



President's Weekly Perspective

Good afternoon.

Student Experience

Congratulations to all of our elected student government representatives. I look forward to working with our new and returning ASUNM leaders in the coming semester. This has been an excellent year for our undergraduate leadership team, and I know that President Elect Jenna Hagenruber will build upon that success.

It is also great to see that Texanna Martin will be leading GPSA for another year. She has been a pleasure to work alongside, and her dedication to her graduate and professional student peers is admirable.

Last week I met with our ASUNM leaders to discuss the state of the University and what we all can expect in the future. I will certainly say that this is a group of students who does not hesitate to ask tough questions, and who always demonstrates that well-being of the student body is their top priority. I hope that our meeting will help them as they finish their terms, and inform those who will be returning next year.

I was asked about my undergraduate experience here, and I want to share the advice I gave with the entire campus. Keep your eyes open for your "Wow" moment. I spoke about this to our incoming class at the 2014 Freshmen Convocation, but it bears repeating to all of our students.

Coming to UNM is not just about attending classes and taking tests. It is an experience, and a connection to the life you want to live. My hope is that each and every student has a wow moment, a moment when you realize that you are in your element and love what you are doing. For the students I visited last week that "wow" experience might come from involvement in student government. For others, it could come from one of the hundreds of student organizations on campus, or from connecting with a professor who eventually becomes a mentor. I hope that every Lobo keeps their eyes open to the possibilities at UNM, and finds their "wow" moment.

Self-expression on Campus

Disseminating ideas and generating discussion is critical to our institutional mission. We benefit greatly from our diverse community, and we see a wide variety of values, beliefs and ideals because of the different cultures and backgrounds that are represented on here.

As an institution that exists for the express purposes of education, research, and public service, the University is dependent upon the unfettered flow of ideas, not only in the classroom and the laboratory, but also in all University activities. As such, protecting freedom of expression is of central importance to the University. For more information, please see Administrative Policies and Procedures Manual [Policy 2220: Freedom of Expression and Dissent](#).

I wanted to write about this today because I hope that everyone at the University recognizes that freedom of expression and dissent is an important part of campus culture. I also want to affirm that while we support the expression of all viewpoints, we do not support hate and incivility.

Budget Summit

The UNM Board of Regents approved an [innovative tuition plan that incentivizes 4-year degree completion](#) at the University's Budget Summit last Friday. I would like to thank our Board of Regents, as well as everyone who worked to develop and present this tuition approach. Although the approved tuition proposal will increase tuition, the financial benefit of a free semester for students who complete degree programs in four years is a tremendous reward. It supports the University's goal to increase our 4-year degree completion rate.

LoboRESPECT Events

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and our [LoboRESPECT student group has organized three upcoming events](#) to promote that. This week, a panel of experts will talk to students about the process for a sexual assault survivor. The open forum takes place on Thursday, April 16 at 4 p.m. in the SUB Atrium. Thank you to all of the organizations who will be represented at the event, and to Dean Tomas Aguirre for moderating the discussion.

[Thank you to everyone who has contributed to and coordinated the events this month.](#) I hope that many people will attend, and I hope that many more will get involved with our year-round efforts such as the UNM Start By Believing campaign and the ongoing sexual assault prevention training.

#GlobalLobos

I encourage everyone to join the [International Festival](#) this Thursday, April 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the East SUB Mall. The event presented by our Global Education Office along with the Center for English Language & American Culture will bring diverse performances and cuisines to the center of campus.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob