Good afternoon.

DOJ Student Forums
Early last week, I sent a letter to the community regarding the U.S. Department of Justice’s Civil Rights Division (DOJ) visit to our campus, and our support of their investigative review of our University. I would like to remind all of our students of the focus groups that the DOJ will be holding this week. The representatives will be speaking to students, activists and survivors of sexual assault in these sessions, as well as individually, to review UNM’s policies and procedures regarding sexual violence and assault. All of the sessions will be held in SUB rooms and refreshments will be served.

A comprehensive draft policy regarding sexual violence and sexual misconduct is currently out for public review and commentary. I encourage you to read the policy and submit feedback online or to policy@unm.edu, so your comments can be considered before the policy is finalized and published in the Pathfinder and the administrative policy manual.

Student Employee Appreciation
Thousands of students from all campuses and branches take on an additional role with UNM as student employees, and it is important to recognize their hard work. Several events and festivities happened last week in celebration of National Student Employee Week.

Congratulations to Philip Castillo, who received the 2015 Student Employee of the Year award, as well as the four finalists, Michael Gallegos, David Campbell, Kenneth Gaona and Tayli Lam.

Outstanding Achievements
Dr. Karl Karlstrom has been named UNM’s 60th Annual Research Lecturer, and I am so pleased to see his life’s work recognized with such a distinctive honor. Dr. Karlstrom is a professor of geology, who has made extraordinary contributions to our University and to his field of study, both in terms of research and education. He will be recognized and present a lecture this Thursday, April 23, in the SUB Ballrooms A & B. The event will start at 5:30 p.m.

Vice President for Equity and Inclusion Jozi De Leon was also recognized locally and nationally this year. In March she was named a 2015 Woman of Influence by Albuquerque Business First, an award recognizing her for her influence and contribution in the education industry category. The National LULAC Women’s Commission also recognized her as a Latina leader making a difference in the community. Congratulations to Vice President De Leon on these outstanding honors.

Green Paw Print
Sustainability is a core value at UNM because we as an institution understand the importance of environmental responsibility and strategic use and protection of our natural resources. It is a part of nearly every project and plan implemented, from building design that reduces power usage to enhanced recycling efforts.
UNM has been recognized for the fifth year in a row in the “Princeton Review’s Guide to 353 Green Colleges: 2015 Edition. Thank you to all of the students, staff and faculty who work diligently to keep UNM operating efficiently and in a way that minimizes our carbon footprint, especially UNM Sustainability Manager Mary Clark, and everyone in the Sustainability Studies Program.

This recognition could not have come at a better time than now. The 7th annual Sustainability Expo & Growers Market will take place tomorrow, April 21, on Cornell Mall between 10:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

I would also like to encourage everyone to take part in the “Take Back the Tap” initiative. You can text “I <3 TAP” to 69866 along with your UNM email address to vote in a contest, which could lead to more water filtration stations on campus.

**Epicenter Technology Lab**

I would like to invite everyone to the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Epicenter and the “Driving to the Future” technology lab. This is part of the new Innovation District that will support entrepreneurship and economic development in Albuquerque. The ceremony will be on Friday, April 24 from 2 – 3 p.m. at 101 Broadway Blvd. NE.

**Relay For Life**

In support of finding a cure for cancer, The University of New Mexico Relay for Life hosting a 12-hour fundraising event on Friday-Saturday, April 24-25, from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. on Johnson Field. The idea is that cancer never sleeps, so for 12 hours someone from each team will be walking around a track at Johnson Field. The UNM Staff Council team has raised the most money thus far and we encourage you to donate to this worthy cause.

Have a great week and Go Lobos!

Bob