



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Good afternoon.

Higher Learning Commission

The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) recently announced that our accreditation site visit will take place on March 4-5, 2019. During the visit, a team of reviewers from other universities within the HLC's north-central region will come to UNM for one and a half days to review evidence and speak with members of campus. The purpose of the visit, and of the accreditation process generally, is to ensure that UNM meets the HLC's standards for quality.

A representative from the HLC was just [on campus last week](#) to inform members of the University about the site visit. We are currently on a 10-year cycle, and some of you may have been involved during our last reaffirmation of accreditation in 2009.

A number of committees have been working for the past several years to prepare for the peer review, collecting evidence and preparing a report to be submitted to the HLC prior to the visit. If you want to know more about the accreditation process, and its importance to UNM, please see [this video](#) prepared by Associate Provost Greg Heileman. To follow the progress of the committees working on our reaffirmation of accreditation, and for more information on the process, visit the UNM HLC Accreditation [website](#).

Town Hall

Thank you to everyone who attended the town hall on Friday. Only by working together will we find strategies that address critical issues like state funding reductions and student safety concerns.

Thanks to the voice of our community and the support of our legislature, we were able to maintain our state funding reductions at 5 percent. Daunting as that seems, the engagement of our students, faculty, staff and alumni prevented even higher cuts that could have been catastrophic to our operation.

We have found efficiencies to reduce spending and will continue to seek out ways to alleviate budget pressures. At the town hall, some people voiced concerns about having to continually do more with less. Our goal is to find ways to support each other across departments and units, sharing resources so our teams can accomplish the necessary work without overburdening individuals.

Regarding student safety and our [agreement with the Department of Justice](#), several offices and individuals have made monumental strides in addressing and preventing sexual assault and misconduct. Our campus climate survey demonstrates respondents consider the University to be a safer and more responsive

institution in comparison to averages reported by the Association of American Universities (AAU). The survey respondents indicated that fewer students experience sexual harassment and non-consensual sexual incidents at UNM than reported figures from the AAU. However, even one episode is too many. We will continue to work toward eliminating sexual assault at UNM. Meeting this challenge is critical to our campus and every college campus in America.

At the end of the town hall, many people spoke passionately about a statewide review of the State's core curriculum. I want to thank everyone who spoke about this issue. As I said it on Friday, I am very pleased to see students engaged in the content of the core curriculum. Provost Abdallah mentioned the ongoing conversation regarding the core education expectations set by the New Mexico Higher Education Department. We encourage you to [learn more](#) about this issue and provide your [feedback](#).

GO Bond and Mill Levy

We are only 15 days out from Election Day, and early and absentee voting is already well underway. I want to take a quick moment to remind everyone of one of the statewide ballot items that is critical to the success of higher education and healthcare in New Mexico.

If approved, [General Obligation Bond C](#) will provide more than \$131 million in higher education funding to support facility updates and new technologies. These bond items are sometimes misunderstood by voters, which is why I want to stress a few important facts to everyone.

This bond is not about any one single university. It is about dozens of New Mexico educational institutions. That means that your vote isn't just supporting the future of UNM—it is supporting the future of higher education in our state.

This also goes beyond higher education. It will significantly impact our economy directly, as it will lead to job creation. The facility projects proposed in GO Bond C will create an estimated 1,300 jobs statewide.

For all of you who live in Bernalillo or Sandoval County, you will have an opportunity to vote on the continuation of the mill levy that provides support for UNM hospitals. The mill levy is a vital source of funding for the University of New Mexico Hospitals, currently providing approximately \$95 million to the state's only Level 1 Trauma Center to fund critical programs such as UNM Children's Hospital, which offers the highest level of intensive pediatric services, and New Mexico's only National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer center. Without these programs many New Mexico families would have to seek care out of state.

These are only a few of the many reasons to vote on these important ballot issues. I encourage you to [read more about GO Bond C](#) and the UNMH mill levy before casting your vote.

UNM Gives

Finally, I would like to remind everyone the UNM Gives campaign is going on now through Nov. 18. There is still time for UNM employees to sign-up to make a one-time or reoccurring financial contributions to the United Way of Central New Mexico and other charitable organizations.

Whether you give financially or donate time and talent to help those in need, every contribution counts.

Have a great week, and Go Lobos!

Bob