



PRESIDENT'S WEEKLY PERSPECTIVE

Higher Education Budget Update

Over the past few weeks, our state's budget and actions by our governor and legislators have become national news. As you know by now, the governor [vetoed](#) the higher education portion of the budget, as well as the funding for some legislative agencies. In response to the governor's veto, the Legislative Council has now [sued](#) the governor in the state's Supreme Court. Understandably, these actions have cast New Mexico in an unflattering light and have generated enormous anxiety and uncertainty among our current students, faculty and staff, as well as incoming students and their families.

Let me start by assuring everyone that we will have state appropriations by the beginning of the next fiscal year. This has been affirmed repeatedly by the governor and the leadership of the Legislature, and no one expects that UNM and the other post-secondary institutions will not receive state support. Our efforts remain focused on making sure that no further cuts are applied, in order to alleviate the amount of revenue we would need from other sources. Moreover, our budget leadership team has developed several scenarios and recommendations that allow UNM to prioritize its operations and continue to fulfill its mission for the upcoming year. I will take these recommendations into consideration as the final university budget for the coming year is prepared to submit to our Board of Regents.

Furthermore, as a member of the New Mexico Council of University Presidents ([CUP](#)), I have joined the other presidents of New Mexico's four-year institutions to [communicate](#) to both the legislative and executive branches the importance of quickly finalizing an appropriate budget for higher education. Similar actions have been taken by our faculty and [students](#). We are also acting in unison to inform the community at large, through public statements and editorials, of the long-term negative impact that the standoff on our higher education budget may have. Last but not least, while this particular crisis was unexpected, it reaffirms my belief that we need to start planning for a more uncertain and fast-moving funding environment for higher education. As soon as this budget season is concluded, I will begin the conversation on the ways to re-engineer the university in anticipation of long-term challenges.

Expect the Unexpected!

The College of Fine Arts is bringing the campus and our surrounding community the 5th annual [ArtsUnexpected](#) this Friday, April 28. This [all-day student-organized festival](#) will feature over 250 artists, musicians and performers showcasing their talents throughout campus and in downtown Albuquerque. Our students have grown this event each year, and will no doubt surprise and delight us with their creative spirit.

A Bold (Yet Familiar) Look

After a year of diligent work and evaluation, the cross-campus [Visual Identity Committee](#) that was tasked with updating the UNM primary logo is prepared to share their recommendation. The logo is a unifying university symbol that features prominently in the UNM brand family of elements. The committee will be

sharing the proposed new logo concept with the campus community on Friday, April 28 from 10 a.m. – 12 noon in the Student Union Building, Ballroom A. A presentation at the HSC will also be scheduled in next few weeks.

Lobo Rainforest Student Living Ready for Fall 2017

As Innovate ABQ continues to take shape downtown, our students are now able to be a part of the new Lobo Rainforest urban living and learning environment. This is a new housing option that is open to Innovation Academy students, current UNM Residents and UNM upper-classmen. Move-in [incentives are being offered](#) through May 13. This is a truly singular opportunity to be at home in a dynamic academic and entrepreneurial collaborative in the heart of Albuquerque.

Until next week,

Chaouki T. Abdallah

Acting President

Follow me on Twitter [@chaoukita](#)

There is so much more that happens on the UNM campus than can be conveyed in a weekly message. To find out about the latest stories and events, please visit the [UNM Newsroom](#), the central source of news and information for the UNM community.