

February 20, 2025

## Communication re: U.S. Department of Education Guidance

Good morning Lobos –

I want to address the [recent guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education regarding non-discrimination obligations, particularly in light of the Supreme Court's decision in \*Students for Fair Admissions v. Harvard\*](#). I understand that the recent guidance has caused concern and uncertainty, especially for those connected to our support centers and programs designed to foster inclusivity and student success.

At the University of New Mexico, our commitment to creating a welcoming and supportive environment for *all* students is unwavering. We are the University *for* New Mexico, and who we are now is a genuine reflection of the natural diversity of minds, hearts, and lives that make up our beautiful state. What I know to be true is that the Lobo experience at UNM broadens perspectives, encourages critical thinking, and prepares our students to be engaged and successful citizens in an interconnected global economy.

We are undertaking a careful and comprehensive review of the Department of Education's guidance and will comply with all relevant laws, while preserving our commitment to student success and a welcoming campus climate.

Let me be clear - our commitment to the core values that underpin our support centers and programs will not be diminished. We have always viewed these centers and programs as playing a vital role in the success of our students. They provide tutoring, mentoring, and workshops designed to help students thrive in their studies; comfortable spaces and opportunities for students to connect with peers, build relationships, and find a sense of belonging; programs and events that promote understanding across cultures; assistance navigating university systems, accessing resources, and addressing challenges that may hinder academic progress; and space for students to explore and celebrate their identities and those of others. These services are not about exclusion; they are about creating a campus where every student can reach their full potential.

We will continue to champion inclusive excellence as an essential component of the UNM experience. My leadership team and I are committed to navigating the changing landscape for higher education with transparency, integrity, and a focus on the well-being and success of our students and all members of the UNM community.

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