

## **STATEMENT TO CAMPUS**

I wanted to follow up on the many concerns expressed to my office and University constituent leaders regarding UNM's response to an [incident last week](#) involving a man brandishing a weapon at separate locations near to and on our campus. Not only do I want to reaffirm that the safety of this campus is a top priority, but that it is imperative that those of us who study, work and visit understand and feel confident in how we handle these situations.

Earlier this week I met with UNM Police Department Chief McCabe, Emergency Manager Byron Piatt and representatives from other departments to discuss our response to this incident. As with any situation, there were things we did well, but we discovered deficiencies in some areas which I can assure you we will improve. In particular, the communication to our students, faculty and staff needs to be more detailed and instructive. Going forward, I have directed our emergency staff to ensure the following:

- Issue LoboAlerts as quickly as possible, which contain clear information, including any specific actions that should be taken.
- Follow-up initial communication with updates, sent out in a timely manner, to ensure the campus community is kept apprised of the situation.
- Provide support staff from University Communication and Marketing to assist UNMPD with message content and the resources to update the campus community, particularly on social media.
- Schedule meetings with ASUNM and GPSA to solicit input and address concerns and include representatives of both organizations in our future planning and communications.
- Include in more information in class syllabi regarding campus safety procedures.
- Explore new avenues and resources to enhance safety and work toward creating realistic drills that increase preparedness for all.

I am now confident based on our initial review that the response by UNMPD was timely and they followed appropriate procedures, based on the information they had. Each situation is however different and while we always aim to provide an environment conducive to learning, we must balance that with ensuring the safety of the entire campus community. There may be situations where we cannot disclose every detail of the incident, but rest assured, we will communicate as best we can what actions to take to ensure your safety.

In this instance, UNMPD determined that, after an extensive search of the campus, there was no imminent threat, but they elected to send out an advisory so the campus community would be aware of the situation. Had this individual posed an imminent threat, the initial LoboAlert would have contained instructions on what actions to take.

In light of the horrific and senseless shootings we have seen recently, I want to emphasize to the campus community that I have complete trust in UNMPD, our emergency management team, and the Albuquerque

Police Department. These are professionals who are well-versed and ready to act to ensure the safety of one-and-all in these types of situations. I also understand the frustration of the individuals who felt like there was not enough communication or instruction on what to do, and I am hopeful that our proposed communications steps will help to remedy these shortcomings. Again, should UNMPD determine there is a threat to the safety of our campus, they will provide specific direction, and I believe that the new communication and training steps we are putting in place will address these concerns.

The campus community, including faculty, staff and students, are always urged to use caution, to be aware of your surroundings and to immediately report anything that may seem out of the ordinary. We are all responsible for our safety and for the safety of our community. For more information, visit [UNM Campus Safety](#).

If you ever notice any suspicious behavior, please contact the [UNM Police Department](#) at 505.277.2241 immediately.

Thank you.

Chaouki Abdallah, UNM President