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President's Weekly Perspective, 2007_11_05

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Monday Morning Message - November 5, 2007

Good morning.

I'm pleased to report that the search for the Provost/Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs is well underway. In my opinion, this is the most important individual to be hired by this institution. More than anyone, the Provost provides critical leadership in all aspects of the university's education, research and service missions. So it is important for all of us to pay attention to and get involved in the process.

The search committee, which is chaired by Dr. Julia Fulghum, is committed to bringing a highly qualified and diverse group of candidates to campus early next semester. Right now, I strongly encourage the faculty to submit nominations of people they think are qualified to provide academic leadership at UNM. Here's the Provost Search web site: <http://www.unm.edu/president/provostsearch.html>

One of the goals set for me by the Regents is to "review and refine the mission, vision, and strategic plan for the University of New Mexico." To accomplish this and to ensure alignment of UNM's many planning processes, we are working on a "Strategic Framework" that will serve to articulate, clarify and communicate who we are and what we aspire to be as a university.

I've asked Carolyn Thompson in her new role as Consultant to the President for Strategy and Goals to lead this initiative. I'm anticipating that we will have the basic framework designed by the end of this semester with opportunities for campus-wide engagement occurring in the spring.

If you haven't yet sent in your United Way pledge form, please take a moment and do so now. We're making a big push to reach our goal of \$515,000 and 1,000 participants. Together, I know we can do it. Together, we will realize that "giving makes life better." It all starts with you.

We're up to #3 on the list of "Five Important Things To Know About UNM." This university provides an outstanding ROI (return on investment) for New Mexico's taxpayers. In UNM's 2007-2008 budget of \$1.84 billion, the recurring appropriation from the State is less than \$350 million. So for every recurring \$1 appropriated by the State, UNM leverages approximately \$5. UNM also brings in nearly \$300 million annually in outside funding for research. We have to leverage our resources in order to fulfill our commitment to our students, and we do so quite well.

Finally, it will be UNM Faculty, Staff and Branch Campus Day at the UNM-Colorado State game this Saturday, November 10. For the first time, faculty and staff can purchase discounted tickets for a single game - \$7 for both adult and youth - at the Pit Ticket Office or at the UNM Bookstore. Game time is 1 p.m.

Have a great week.

David J. Schmidly