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## President's Weekly Perspective, 2008\_01\_14

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**Monday Morning Message**  
**January 14, 2008**

Good morning.

The New Mexico Legislature convenes tomorrow at noon in Santa Fe for a 30-day session. There is no more important time on our calendar, because this is when legislators approve the funding that will guide Regents' decisions about compensation for faculty and staff, tuition increases and the entire university budget. We've been working toward this session for many months now, and our efforts will simply intensify during the next 30 days. On January 29, we intend to make our legislative priorities highly visible during the annual UNM Day at the Capital.

Understandably, everyone is interested in what happens during the session, and we encourage that interest. You can follow UNM bills of interest on our legislative website, <http://www.unm.edu/~legis08>. However, we also ask that you adhere to university policy on engaging in political activity. The link to the policy is <http://www.unm.edu/~ubppm/ubppmanual/2050.htm>. UNM must convey effective and consistent messages to legislators about our priorities, and though we want our employees to maintain good professional relationships with legislators, we want to ensure that multiple UNM constituencies do not approach them at the same time. We want to deliver accurate and complete responses to all legislative inquiries. So whether you are faculty, staff member or student, we want you to contact Government Relations director Marc Saavedra at 681-4882, Government Relations specialist Tanya Giddings at 681-4461 or OGCR administrative coordinator Renee Santillanes at 277-1670. They need to know if you've been asked to meet with legislators or to testify before a legislative committee.

I'm pleased to announce that Dr. Finnie Coleman has been named acting dean of University College. As we've mentioned previously, Dr. Peter White is on sabbatical this semester and has announced his return to the teaching ranks. We look forward to working with Dr. Coleman who has served as director of Africana Studies the past couple of years. We also look forward to working with Dr. Robert Valdez, who started work last week as director of the Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy at UNM. Dr. Valdez is a former RWJ Fellow and comes to us from the Rand Corporation and his own consulting firm in Virginia. He is a former professor of economics at UCLA.

I know I speak for many on the leadership team when I say the School/College Strategy and Performance Reviews that were presented last week were simply outstanding. It was an incredible download of information over a couple of days, and for me, a boot camp in learning about and appreciating the great work done by our schools and colleges. I commend the Deans and their respective faculty and staff members for the thoughtful work that went into these presentations.

Lobo basketball took on San Diego State this past weekend and came away with a split. Thanks to all who helped Pack the Pit. This week we'll battle TCU and Air Force. Go Lobos.

Have a good week.  
David J. Schmidly

