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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_03_03

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Monday Morning Message
March 3, 2008

Good morning.

Tomorrow is the municipal election in Rio Rancho, which is major for UNM as voter decisions will determine our future path in establishing a campus there. The Higher Education Initiative will provide a quarter-cent increase in the gross receipts tax that would go toward establishing the infrastructure at the UNM site next to the City Center. If you live in Rio Rancho, I encourage you to go out and vote your conscience on the Higher Education Initiative. It's important.

Governor Richardson is scheduled to be on campus this morning to sign several bills, including the General Obligation Bond package, which includes a number of UNM projects. He'll be at the SUB atrium around 11:30 a.m. As always, thanks to the Governor and the Legislature for all that they do for UNM.

I want to thank everyone who participated in last Friday's Budget Summit for the interest and thoughtful commentary. In all of my years in academic administration, I found this process to be the most open and involving. The Regents will settle on tuition and compensation at their March 12 meeting and their decision will drive our budget recommendations.

Meanwhile, we are keeping an eye on our federal priorities in what promises to be a tough budget year nationally. I spent a good part of last week with our Congressional delegation in Washington D.C. Thanks to the UNM Alumni Association for helping me host the annual Capitol Hill Reception, which was a great success.

Another important search is getting underway – this one for the Vice President of Research. Being a major research university, this is one of UNM's most crucial leadership positions, as this individual will work with the faculty on the discovery of new knowledge. Associate Dean of Arts and Sciences Michael Dougher is chairing the search committee, which will soon be getting its charge and setting the process in motion. Meanwhile, the searches for Provost, Vice President for Enrollment Management and Vice President for Equity and Inclusion are well underway.

In a couple of weeks, UNM will be hosting the Sungshin Women's University Korean Cultural Exhibition. The group is touring a limited number of American college campuses, and we are lucky to get them here. The event will be Friday, March 21, at 7 p.m. in Rodey Theatre. Tickets are free, but seating will be limited. Before we make tickets available to the general community, we want to give you an opportunity to pick up yours, starting today, at the UNM Bookstore Ticket Office.

This Friday afternoon, March 7, you'll have the opportunity to mix and mingle with the Lady Lobos basketball team at their last official practice for 2008. United Way's Women in Philanthropy group will be accepting new and used children's books for the Albuquerque Family Advocacy Center. It begins at 2 p.m. at the Davalos Center. Help support United Way and our Lady Lobos.

It's also the final week of the regular season. Tomorrow night is Senior Night at the Pit for the men's basketball squad. The Lady Lobos play their final home game Saturday afternoon. Go cheer them on as they build momentum for the Mountain West Tournament.

Have a good week.
David J. Schmidly

