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## President's Weekly Perspective, 2007\_06\_18

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Monday Morning Message - June 18, 2007

Good morning.

I understand they're flipping pancakes at the SUB. If you're a staff member reading this, try to get there to start your day off right at the Staff Appreciation pancake breakfast. This week will be filled with special activities which I hope everyone will enjoy as UNM celebrates its remarkable, hard-working staff.

I regretfully cannot join you for pancakes, though I'll be at several of the events later this week. This morning, I am in Washington, D.C. attending the summer NASULGC (National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges) conference on the Urban Agenda. UNM is a classic example of a public and therefore open university set in the middle of a large urban area. That situation brings a unique set of challenges, but also opportunities. With its service learning projects, UNM is already engaging several of Albuquerque's neighborhoods and communities. At NASULGC, we will continue to explore solutions to urban issues and ways to maximize urban strengths. Interim provost Vi Florez will be joining me in Washington for these important discussions.

Closer to home, I've begun meeting with an ad hoc committee of UNM women faculty about a faculty parental leave proposal. I've asked interim Human Resources VP Carolyn Thompson to convene a group to review current policy and practice to determine how both compare with the faculty's proposal. Members of the ad hoc committee will be at the table as we pursue a goal we all share - to have policies in place that support our ability to recruit, hire and retain excellent faculty at UNM.

Later this week, I look forward to joining our alumni advocates, Lobos for Legislation, as they meet with legislators from NW Albuquerque and Rio Rancho. And I'll be joining all of you at the congratulatory reception for Reed Dasenbrock, as he leaves UNM to take the reins of the NM Higher Education Department as its Cabinet Secretary.

Have a great week.