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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_04_07

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Monday Morning Message - April 7, 2008

Good morning.

I look forward to speaking to everyone tomorrow afternoon about the strategic framework for campus and how all of us working together will shape the future of UNM. Logistical details about tomorrow afternoon's webcast can be found on the President's web page along with log-on instructions at http://www.unm.edu/president/strategic_planning. We've received a number of thoughtful questions from many of you and I hope to answer them all tomorrow.

I've just about completed my first budget process at UNM and one thing I will work hard to change is the volatility that surrounds tuition. There is no way students and parents can budget and plan under the current system, and there is no incentive for students to get the job done and graduate. I want to see that changed.

At some time in the fall, I will present the Regents with a proposed five-year plan for tuition that could include innovations like guaranteed tuition or block tuition, where students would pay for the first 12 or 15 credit hours and any remaining hours would be free. Stabilize and incentivize - that's what I want to see happen in a long-range tuition plan.

UNM's Office of Accessibility Services would appreciate your input and feedback on the campus climate for individuals with disabilities. There's a survey you're invited to take online at <http://as2.unm.edu> through mid-May. It features questionnaires for individuals with disabilities and also for those without disabilities whose input about accommodations and creating a welcoming environment would be most helpful. Thanks to Accessibility Services for working to compile this vital information.

The topic of sustainability will likely come up during my webcast. Next Monday, I'll have more information about new policies for you to consider as well as UNM's new efforts on energy conservation.

Finally, a couple of kudos are in order. UNM senior Julio Romero, one of our supplemental instruction leaders at CAPS, will receive an international award as an outstanding Supplemental Instruction (SI) leader next month in Orlando, recognizing his commitment to the program and his extraordinary success with students. SI is now the largest tutoring program on campus.

Meanwhile, congratulations to the UNM charrette team focused on Community Engaged Scholarship Faculty Development. UNM was selected with 19 others from more than a hundred teams vying to participate in a national conversation at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill in late May. The chosen participants are truly committed to implementing campus-wide mechanisms for preparing and supporting community-engaged faculty. We are truly proud of them: Claudia Isaac (senior faculty member), School of Architecture & Planning; Marilyn Davis, University College; Matt Borrego, College of Pharmacy; and Tassy Parker (charrette team leader).

Congratulations also to Nina Wallerstein, co-charrette team leader, and many others who assisted in their success. Good job!

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly