

4-28-2008

President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_04_28

David Schmidly

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Recommended Citation

Schmidly, David. "President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_04_28." (2008). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/schmidly_papers/88

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Good morning.

I hope you have all made plans to join me this Thursday afternoon as we continue the rollout of the Strategic Framework initiative. Over the past two weeks, more than 90 departments from all over campus held special meetings to discuss how their work contributes to the mission, vision and values of UNM and how their future activities can move our university from good to great. People have told me, and I saw for myself, how stimulating and enjoyable these sessions proved to be.

This Thursday, May 1, we have scheduled a town hall to highlight the thoughts and plans from several of the departments – all who have taken the inaugural theme “Connect” to heart and who have come up with intriguing ways to align their work to the greater work of the university. The town hall starts at 1:30 p.m. in the SUB Ballrooms. I look forward to seeing you there and to hearing some dynamic presentations.

Speaking of dynamic, I had the opportunity to meet with a group of our newer faculty members last week to hear their views on research at UNM. Specifically, I was interested in learning what they view as the ideal conditions required for supporting world class research at our university, and most importantly, what barriers we must remove to create those conditions. I look forward to the ongoing conversation, and I want to thank all of those who participated for their candor and collegial approach to discussing a topic that is so critical to UNM’s mission.

I look forward to meeting with many of the faculty this week. I know they have questions about university finances and I will be providing the answers.

Today I am in Washington D.C., meeting with members of New Mexico’s Congressional delegation. It’s just the beginning of a very busy week. UNM’s Board of Regents will be taking up a number of crucial items, including the approval of our 2008-2009 budget.

Following that on Wednesday afternoon at 2 p.m., I invite you to join me at the grand re-opening of Zimmerman Library. It will be two years to the date when one of UNM’s greatest treasures endured a devastating fire. Now the library is back and better than ever. That’s something to celebrate.

And while we’re celebrating, congratulations to Lobo men’s tennis coach Alan Dils, named Tennis Coach of the Year by the Mountain West Conference. It’s his 12th season, and with 162 victories, he is the coach with the most wins for the Lobos.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly