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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_07_28

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Monday Morning Message - July 28, 2008

Good morning.

We start with hearty congratulations to the five UNM professors who have been promoted to the rank of UNM Distinguished Professor – the highest faculty rank at the university. These are the teachers and scholars who have achieved renown on a national and international scale, who bring recognition to our outstanding faculty, and who are instrumental to UNM achieving greatness. Please join me in honoring Jeff Brinker, Chemical and Nuclear Engineering; Patricia Crown, Anthropology; Suleiman Kassiech, Management of Technology at the Anderson School of Management; Barbara McCrady, Psychology; and Gerald Vizenor, American Studies. Congratulations to you all.

Last week, student and faculty leaders joined a number of department heads to understand and tackle the challenges the current spike in energy costs has created for students, faculty and staff. They brainstormed several fast-track initiatives, some of which could be in place as early as this coming semester. Among the initiatives are common sense approaches, but also other ideas that definitely reflect out of the box thinking. I'll be reviewing the group's report in the next few days and will share with you the recommendations we will implement quickly and evaluate during the fall semester.

I hope you've read my letter to the UNM community about proposed policy revisions dealing with public records. These revisions, which I will recommend be adopted, represent a compromise - one that provides the maximum protection to employees while in my view keeping us compliant with both the letter and spirit of the law. I invite you to review the revisions at <http://www.unm.edu/~ubppm/> They will be discussed at the August 12 Board of Regents meeting.

Tomorrow, I will join CNM President Kathy Winograd and Rio Rancho leaders for the signing of an important memorandum of understanding. This MOU is the direct result of master planning activities that have been going on for several months, and it promises cooperative work on all issues to be addressed during the planning and development of the Rio Rancho City Center, the CNM campus and the UNM campus. It also defines the responsibilities for a Joint Master Planning Task Force. Bottom line, this MOU will help get things done in Rio Rancho.

Finally, this is good time to remind you of several of the great benefits that come with working at UNM. Faculty and staff can save up to 50% on tickets to Popejoy shows and now you have until August 30 to order your tickets. I invite you to visit <http://popejoypresents.com/unm.htm> for more details, or call Popejoy at 277-8010 for a brochure.

Also, faculty/staff season tickets for Lobo football are now on sale. Tickets are 1/2 price for the six home games that will feature TCU, Texas A & M, Arizona, Wyoming, San Diego State and Utah. That's an impressive lineup. For more information, call the ticket office at 925-LOBO.

Have a great week.

David J. Schmidly