

8-11-2008

President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_08_11

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Recommended Citation

Schmidly, David. "President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_08_11." (2008). https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/schmidly_papers/105

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Monday Morning Message - August 11, 2008

Good morning.

I would like to take a moment to thank everyone who took the time to complete the recent survey in which more than 700 of you told us that you participated in this summer's Compressed Work Week pilot. Now that the fall semester is about to start, the pilot will be ending, as scheduled, on August 15, 2008. As part of the transition to fall semester schedules, the Division of Human Resources will be helping managers promote a variety of flexible work schedules that meet the mission of the University. Based on what we have learned from the recent pilot and your survey responses, additional tips on how flexible scheduling can meet UNM's needs will be addressed. I invite you to look over UNM's current policy on flexible scheduling at <http://www.unm.edu/%7Eubppm/ubppmanual/3300.htm>. And thanks again to all those who participated in the summer compressed work week pilot.

On the heels of that pilot, we look forward to your participation in one or more of the Fast Track Top Ten projects we're unveiling this fall as part of my Energy and Transportation Initiatives. Many of you asked that we work with the city on free bus passes for faculty and staff. We're happy to report those will be available this fall. Students have enjoyed them for more than a year. We've also listened to those of you who wish to share a UNM parking pass with colleagues who car pool or bike or take the bus. Details on the shared parking pass program are being finalized.

For those of you who bike to work, we're setting up a secure bike park near Carlisle Gym. Or if you want to take advantage of Albuquerque's new bike rental program, we're working with the city to have a couple of bike kiosks located here on campus.

If you drive, having proper tire pressure will save up to 3% on your gasoline bill. Parking and Transportation Services will be setting up the Traveling Tire Pressure Tent, soon to come to your parking lot, where they will make sure your tires are properly inflated. Also, the PATS folks are working on converting one of our older-model buses to run on used vegetable oil. The Veggie Bus will save fuel and recycle used cooking oil that UNM currently pays to have removed from campus.

Our Lobo Energy initiatives to lower energy consumption around campus will ramp up big time this fall. Meanwhile, students moving into dorms can trade their lamp bulbs for a low energy fluorescent version. And, faculty and staff members who have a desk lamp in their UNM offices can do the same. Finally, the UNM home page will feature a Green Zone where you can find out about these and other energy saving initiatives. We'll have more details on the rollout dates for the Fast Track Top Ten in the weeks to come.

The Board of Regents will act tomorrow on my recommendations for revisions to UNM's open records policy. I know this issue has been of very high interest for many of you, especially when it comes to home and family information. One of my recommendations provides for an opt out provision for employees who want certain specified home information to remain private. Should the Regents approve this recommendation without any changes, you will be notified by Wednesday about how to go about signing up for the opt out provision.

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly

