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President's Weekly Perspective, 2008_08_25

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Monday Morning Message - August 18, 2008

Good morning.

After some very healthy University-wide discussion and review, revisions to UNM policies pertaining to the disclosure of public records under the NM Inspection of Public Records Act (IPRA) have been approved and implemented. I want to once again thank the Working Group members for your time and thoughtful consideration. Thanks also to the number of people from several departments who made possible the opt out provision for employees. That particular process has worked seamlessly and I'm told that as of Friday, nearly 3,600 employees have accessed it.

As the new semester is about to begin, I want to once again encourage staff members who can carve out the time to volunteer for Albuquerque Reads – working with the youngsters just learning to read in local APS schools. Cathy Britain in my office will be happy to answer your questions about the program. You can e-mail her at cbritain@unm.edu.

Starting at noon today, our students will start moving into the dorms and residence halls. We welcome you and look forward to seeing you on campus. Dorm space is in high demand this fall, as our housing folks made clear in several news stories this weekend. We think one reason is that more students are interested in saving on commute costs.

Just a reminder that we're starting to implement some Fast Track programs to save energy at UNM this semester. With one, you can change out the old lamp bulbs in your dorm room or office for free low energy fluorescent bulbs. Thanks to the Physical Plant Department for spearheading this energy savings program.

University Libraries will have another Fast Track program in place by the start of classes next week – making the collections easier to access and saving you some trips to the library. With "Library Express" you can make an online request for journal articles and book chapters to be scanned and then downloaded. It's an expansion of a service the Library already offers for articles and book chapters from other libraries. Now it is being expanded to include the UNM collections. No fee is involved and the service should be in place next week.

With the football season set to begin the end of this month, it was good to hear from Lobo Athletics that more fans and alumni from all over the state will have the chance to tune into the games. The Lobo Sports Radio Network now has ten stations from Hobbs to Gallup, so more than 1.5 million radio listeners will be able to cheer on the Lobos. Let's give them something to howl about!

Have a good week.

David J. Schmidly