

2-9-2009

## Weekly Message, 2/9/2009

David Schmidly

Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/schmidly\\_papers](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/schmidly_papers)

---

### Recommended Citation

Schmidly, David. "Weekly Message, 2/9/2009." (2009). [https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/schmidly\\_papers/132](https://digitalrepository.unm.edu/schmidly_papers/132)

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at UNM Digital Repository. It has been accepted for inclusion in President Schmidly's Administration by an authorized administrator of UNM Digital Repository. For more information, please contact [disc@unm.edu](mailto:disc@unm.edu).

Good Morning,

We're testing sirens today. In case you haven't heard or read about it in the media or seen it on the University website or on fliers around campus, there will be a test of UNM's emergency siren system this morning at 11:02 a.m. In addition to text, web and email alerts, this is another tool we can use to warn people about emergencies on campus and what action they should take. Sirens will be especially helpful for the hundreds of school children, visitors and vendors who come to campus daily and who do not have access to our other emergency notifications. We're responsible for their safety too.

This spring's budget process is evolving from what you've been used to over the past five years. Rather than a Budget Summit, during which UNM constituencies considered the budget as a whole, the Regents want to look at and discuss a more detailed breakdown of spending proposals by operating unit. They believe, and we agree, that since UNM will likely face budget reductions, it is a time when we have to carefully consider all of our spending decisions. A list of budget guidelines should be available for you in the next couple of days.

Meanwhile, as projections for the FY 2010 budget remain grim, we will be unveiling the next steps the University will take to meet potential reductions while preserving our core academic and research missions. Among these steps are a voluntary furlough program and also a cap on the amount of state funds that go to pay my salary and that of the Executive Vice President for Administration. We'll be sharing these and other guidelines with you shortly.

By now many of you will know about the "First Year Reading Initiative" that's being developed for UNM's Fall 2009 freshman class. We're going to be selecting a book for recommended summer reading by our new students, and organizing discussions, lectures, and other programming around it for orientation and for the early weeks of the semester. All of you will also have a chance to participate in one way or another.

A number of our flagship peers have similar programs in place and speak highly of the impact they've made on their campuses. I want to applaud Provost Ortega for bringing it here, and reminding us that we can always be thinking of ways to improve the quality of our educational programming, regardless of the other challenges we face.

Last Friday, a number of us from UNM joined city leaders from Rio Rancho for the groundbreaking of the first building of UNM's campus there next to the City Center. Rio Rancho residents have been waiting a long time for what this event promises for their city. They've overwhelmingly supported higher education by voting for tax increases and bonds that will help fund our presence there, and now they see it's happening. Special acknowledgment goes to the UNM Regents and to state officials who made possible our locating a campus there and to Mayor Swisstack and the Rio Rancho leadership for keeping their vision of higher education alive and thriving.

Have a good week,

David J. Schmidly