

Campus Update
January 15, 2009

Let's start this update by recognizing individuals for their years of service to this wonderful campus:

Five years of service

John Adams, Donna Cook, Rose Pena

Ten years of service

Liz Aranda, Ken Beasley, Bobbie Harrington, Veronica Hernandez, Kathleen Hodgkinson,
Teresa Torres

Fifteen years of service

Connie Breeding, Mary Liddle, Doris Valdespino, Frank Webb

Twenty-five years of service

Yong Mitchell, Nancy Montgomery

Over twenty years of service (part-time)

Pete Eidenbach

According to Dr. Bruce Martin, we are again experiencing record enrollments for Spring 2009! On the first day of classes (Wednesday, January 14), Bruce reported record-breaking enrollments--a headcount of 3,058, which is about 17% above that of Spring 2008 (on the comparable day) and FTE at 1,414.8, which is about 15% above Spring 2008. During the fall retreat, I predicted we may serve over 5,000 students during this academic year. Well, everyone, 5,000 came and went. We will serve over 6,000 students during Academic Year 2009. A big "thank you" goes to everyone. Please lift your right hand--pat yourself on the back. All of you played a wonderful part in this outstanding achievement!

The First Session of the 49th Legislature for the State of New Mexico begins on Tuesday, January 20, noon, and adjourns on Saturday, March 21, noon. The session will be for 60 days. The House of Representatives is comprised of 45 Democrats and 25 Republicans. However, with the recent resignation of Representative Dub Williams, we may see a change in the House numbers. The Senate has 27 Democrats and 15 Republicans. Based on recent trends, it is expected that more than 2,500 bills will be introduced for the 2009 Legislative Session and approximately 350 to 500 bills will be signed into law.

The majority of the Senate Democrats have voted to nominate Carlos Cisneros as the new President Pro-Tempore of the Senate. However, the current President Pro-Tempore, Senator Tim Jennings, has stated that he intends to fight for his current position by gathering votes on the Senate floor during the first day of the session. It is expected that the Republicans will unanimously vote for Senator Jennings. We should know the results of this vote on January 20.

According to Katherine Miller, Secretary the Department of Finance and Administration (DFA), the FY09 revenues will not meet FY09 appropriations. In December, the shortfall was a rosier

estimate than the current estimate--we went from \$384 million to slightly over \$450 million. Constitutionally, the state must meet a balanced year-end budget; therefore, securing enough revenue to cover the now estimated \$450 million shortfall is not negotiable.

With the budget shortfall, all state agencies (excluding higher education) have already been asked to return 5 percent of their budgets to the State. This reversion will affect two of our restricted fund programs--ABE and SBDC.

However, higher education is not yet out of the woods. So, our budget managers have been asked to watch their budgets accordingly. Each budget manager has been asked to set aside 5 percent of their budgets just in case higher education institutions must also meet the 5 percent reversion for FY09.

For FY09, Governor Richardson says he will balance the budget with:

- Cuts to state agencies: \$108 million
- Increased tax collections: \$79 million
- De-authorization of capital outlay projects: \$263 million
- Other one-time cuts: \$48 million

According to our Governor, this will save a total of \$498 million for the current fiscal year.

For FY10 that begins July 1, Governor Richardson proposes to balance the budget with:

- Cuts to state agencies: \$290 million
- Increased tax collections: \$34 million
- Utilizing cash from state reserves: \$119 million
- Other savings: \$12 million

The Legislative Finance Committee's (LFC) proposal for the FY10 budget includes cutting state spending by 2.4 percent, or \$146 million. The plan also calls for taking \$94 million out of the state's cash reserves, and a generation of \$26 million in new revenue. The proposed cuts from the LFC include a \$41 million reduction in funding to the public schools.

The New Mexico Legislature will see a variety of new proposals to close the revenue gap. These proposals will include:

- Cutting recurring spending;
- Improving tax collections;
- Raising taxes which are likely to include increases in corporate income taxes, personal income taxes, selected excise taxes, property taxes, or the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax;
- Equalizing the tax on oil and gas and eliminating some tax credits;
- Shifting revenues from other funds to the General Fund; or
- Drawing down reserves by spending more than current revenue. Please note that several members of the legislature do not support tapping into the reserves since they are unsure what future fiscal years will bring in revenue generation to the state.

During the legislature, the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges (NMACC) is supporting the following five priorities:

1. Full-funding for the Instruction and General Formula. This is the key funding component for us. Under the current funding formula, our increase in enrollment means we are looking at almost a \$1 million increase in I&G funding for FY10. We continue to make the case that as the economy goes south, enrollments at community colleges continue to rise.
2. No increase in the Tuition Credit.
3. Inflationary Adjustments for the Cost of Opening the Doors. HED is recommending a 3.05 percent inflationary adjustment for group health insurance, 12.12 percent adjustment for utilities, 8.15 percent for library and 3.05 percent for risk insurance. NMACC supports this proposal.
4. Compensation Increase. The New Mexico Independent Community Colleges (NMICC) is proposing a 4 percent increase. The Council of University Presidents supports at least a 2 percent increase. NMACC supports giving the highest raise possible within current budget constraints.
5. Partial funding of Research and Public Service (RPS) proposals. NMACC supports a partial reduction in funding for these proposals, but not a total elimination of this funding source.

If higher education is not fully funded for FY10, please keep in mind that we may need to implement a tuition increase. Also, we must always remember that it is impossible to second-guess what the Legislature and Governor will agree to when it comes to funding. We will know the exact answer to the budget question right before the legislature adjourns at noon on March 21.

Sometimes, individuals on our campus are confused about I&G Funding and BR&R funding. Some people will say, "Do not build any new buildings or update current facilities--give us a raise instead." Folks, these are two separate budget allocations--you cannot transfer money between the two funds. In other words, we cannot use I&G funding to build a new building or to replace a roof, and we cannot use BR&R funds to give raise salaries.

Financially, NMSU-A is holding its own. We continue to increase enrollment and our contingency fund is healthy. The Mercer Study for the staff is still not finished; therefore, all PDQs are still frozen. We are hoping the freeze will be lifted at the end of January.

The Mercer Study for the faculty is complete. This semester, we allocated \$91,003 for faculty market adjustments. If we do not see a change in the funding formula, our plan is to meet the salary median as defined by the study by FY11. We continue to make progress in the area of faculty salaries. During this fiscal year, we increased the per credit amount we are paying part-

time faculty, implemented salary minimums for full-time faculty, increased overload pay and provided a consistent way of compensating for new online course developments.

What are some announcements that have absolutely nothing to do with finances? As you know, Governor Richardson has withdrawn his name for consideration for the Secretary of Commerce. However, the transition teams that were formed by Lt. Governor Denish are still in place. The teams are slated to submit their recommendations to the Lt. Governor and the Governor.

Our on-site accreditation visit for our nursing program (NLNAC) went very well. We should have final word from the Commission in February. But, if the Commission accepts the recommendation of the on-site team, our nursing program will receive continuing accreditation for eight years.

On February 6, we will be honoring two outstanding students, Ann Reeser and Israel Riviere. The ceremony will be held in the rotunda of the Capitol Building.

The Strategic Planning Task Force has been putting in many hours. They continue to make progress; we hope to have the strategic plan completed by the end of March.

The Academic Support Center announced that online tutoring is now available for our students. What a wonderful addition to the services we provide to the students on our campus!

The Interim Chancellor/President of Las Cruces (Dr. Waded Cruzado) has declared 2009 as the Year of Sustainability for the NMSU System. NMSU-A is continuing to make progress in this area. For example, we

- Implemented a recycling program;
- Are in the process of constructing the first building within the NMSU system that will be built to LEED Silver Standards;
- Formed a Campus Sustainability Task Force;
- Are working with Las Cruces to design a plan to pilot test a 4-day, 10-hour work week during the summer 2009;
- Conducted various surveys to explore the possibility of making NMSU-A a smoke-free campus. The blogs supported (by a small margin) going to a smoke-free campus. The feedback, however, from various constituent groups supported a transition to designated smoking areas for the campus. We are exploring cost configurations for making this type of transition.

If you are a smoker and would like assistance with “kicking the habit,” you are welcome to join the Smoking Cessation class. It is held on Mondays, 11:00 a.m. in CB 201. There will not be a class on Martin Luther King Day.

Please remember our “Welcome to Spring” event is scheduled for Friday, January 16, 5:30 p.m. in the Tays Special Events Center. The meat entree, beverages and entertainment will be provided. Please bring a side dish and of course, your family.

And, last but definitely not least--thank you for your continued hard work and dedication!