

Notes from Faculty Senate Governmental Relations Committee, May 13, 2011

1) Marc's office (Tanya) will work on a draft of a brochure re: meeting your legislators that will describe how to find out who your legislators are, how to reach them, how to invite them for coffee with neighbors and/or UNM colleagues, and proposing topics to discuss like: 1) What do you do at the University, 2) What do you love about the University and 3) How does your program, department, project, work etc. contribute to the betterment of New Mexico.

2) Our Committee will promote the brochure and ask all Faculty Senators to establish a relationship with their legislators, both so that the Faculty Senators can be viewed as experts on their area of expertise and also so that they can establish relationships with their legislators so that when Faculty Senators contact their legislators, the legislators know who they are.

3) Recruiting Republicans to our Committee. We can work with Joe Thompson to establish stronger relationships with Republican Legislators and the administration. And, Antoinette will call Dean Brown to see if he has a recommendation for someone who might be interested in working with us on our Committee.

4) We will hold the Dialogues in August very much like the one we had last June. We will hold off on selecting the specific date until Marc's office gets the major Committee meeting dates so we can try to avoid them. It will probably be a Friday afternoon. This time we will ask Regent Fortner to select Regents he thinks should attend our Dialogue and we will also invite the student regent. We will be careful not to obtain a quorum of the Regents, since we do not intend for the Dialogues to be a public meeting. We will again invite legislators, student leaders, community leaders, all Faculty Senators, and the Provost. We will also invite Secretary of Higher Education, Dr. Garcia. Again, our goal will be around 60 attendees and we will hold it at the law school if an appropriate room is available on the date we select.

5) Our theme will be "Sustaining UNM as a Public University" building on Pres. Schmidly's Op Ed. Antoinette will solicit questions from our Committee members and send them a link to the Legislative Priorities brochure put out by Marc's Office so that they can build questions off of that document.

6) Alternative Retirement Plans

Marc reported that Helen from HR informed him that 748 employees at UNM are on the Alternative Retirement Plan. A quick calculation suggests that this probably generates about 1.8 million for the ERB due to the current requirement that part of the employer contribution goes to the ERB. Helen is willing to come to our next meeting to discuss the ERB issues so we can become better informed about the

issues and plan an approach for supporting ERB solvency and addressing a fair approach to supporting the Alternative Retirement Plans.

7) Our next meeting is June 30th at 2 pm at the Faculty Club. We will continue work on the ERB solvency issues and plan the Dialogue on “Sustaining UNM as a Public University”.