


MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Jackie Hood, Professor, Anderson School of Management
Dr. Howard Snell, Professor, Biology Department
Dr. Richard Wood, Associate Professor, Sociology Department
Dr. Tim Lowrey, Professor, Biology Department
Dr. Melissa Bokovoy, Associate Professor, History Department

FROM: President David J. Schmidly 

DATE: June 11, 2008

SUBJECT: Resolution Responses

Attached are the responses requested for Resolutions on Items #2 and #3.

Resolution on Agenda Item #2:

Impact of Financial Decisions on Research & Academic Programs

Whereas, the Regents, President, and Faculty of the University share a commitment to advancing the research, teaching, and service mission of the University; and

Whereas, major financial decisions are not narrowly administrative but rather have a direct influence on the University's mission; and

Whereas, recent financial decisions threaten to undermine the University's mission;

Therefore, the General Faculty of the University of New Mexico hereby resolve that:

- 1) All major financial decisions (current and future) regarding non-HSC Facilities & Administration funds and other funds designated for research support be reviewed by the Executive Research Advisory Committee (ERAC, with membership and leadership as constituted by the ERAC Charter) and assessed for their impact on the University's research mission.

The Vice President for Research has agreed to consult with ERAC (Executive Research Advisory Committee) before major finance decisions are made regarding programs, policy changes or expenditures for main campus research support.

- 2) In allocating all resources to academic programs on the main campus, the University will use a consultative process for decisions regarding faculty hiring, faculty retention, and modification of academic programs. Priorities will be set through this consultative process among UNM administrators Deans, Department Chairs and Program Directors taking into account the impact of major financial decisions on academic programs, the long term viability of said programs and UNM's strategic plans.

The incoming University Provost, Dr. Suzanne Ortega, is committed to working in a consultative manner with faculty on all aspects of academia, including financial decisions that will have an impact on academic programs and UNM's strategic plan. Additionally she is also committed to creating a transparent budget process. The process for these discussions will be developed by the incoming Provost once she officially starts on August 1, 2008.

- 3) The University President will communicate with the Faculty Senate regarding progress in implementing these resolutions, no later than June 15, 2008.

Resolution on Item #3:

Financial Issues regarding Upper Administration Growth

In a spirit of transparency and in order to operationalize accountability and have a productive partnership between administration and faculty, the General Faculty of the University of New Mexico hereby resolve that:

The University make public no later than August 31, 2008 a comprehensive review of the change in upper administrative positions at the University of New Mexico over the last five years and over the last twelve months including full details regarding organizational lines of authority, the number of administrative positions above the level of Deans, the total compensation cost of those positions and of associated staff and facilities and the sources of funding for these positions. This review shall also provide a summary comparison of current administrative positions at peer institutions.

In response to the faculty resolution regarding Upper Administration Growth, I have convened a working group to evaluate and review the issue and provide the requested data. The group has already met and I'm encouraged that they'll meet our August 31, 2008 deadline. I've asked for a preliminary report by July 31, 2008 so that there is sufficient time to distribute the document for comment. The committee met on May 22, 2008 and on June 5, 2008. The group will meet again on July 1, 2008.

The working group consists of Howard Snell, Ann Brooks, and Doug Fields from the faculty and David Harris, Helen Gonzales, and Mark Chisholm from the staff. Please direct any questions to Dr. Snell or Mr. Harris.