



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Office of the Provost/Executive
Vice President for Academic Affairs
MSC05 3400
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

**Response to
General Faculty Resolution
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 mission.
- 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 Dean, 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.
- 3) The University President will communicate with the Faculty Senate regarding progress in implementing these resolutions, no later than June 15, 2008.

With full concurrence to the principles of transparency and shared governance underlying this resolution and in the understanding that the Provost will be a full participant in UNM budgetary processes, President David Schmidly requested that the Provost, Vice President for Research, and other members of the Provost's staff prepare a written response to this resolution.



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Across the entire range of University functions, the UNM senior administrative team is fully committed to the principle that academics must be at the center of resource allocation processes. For example, within the Research Office, members of ERAC are fully engaged not only in budgetary discussions, but in matters related to the redesign and improvement of processes and services that support UNM artists, scientists, and scholars. Also, the research office budget priorities are now set by a Top Slice Committee, that includes the Provost, VPR, chair of ERAC, and the Deans of Arts & Sciences, Engineering and Education. By virtue of representation, this committee puts academic affairs at the center of the research budgeting process.

Faculty members are UNM's most important and valuable resource. For this reason, the Provost will work directly with Deans to assure that all faculty hiring, retention plans and decisions support University and collegiate strategic goals, including enrollment growth, improved graduation rates, creation of a diverse and dynamic academic community, and enhanced scholarly productivity and stature.

With respect to hiring and all other resource allocation decisions made in consultation with Deans, the Provost is committed to processes that have time lines sufficient to permit Deans to consult with programs and departments.

Additionally, in the spirit of transparency and shared governance, the Administration is committed to development of a communication strategy so that in cases where policy changes that have budget implications are suggested, there is appropriate opportunity for alerting the academic community and inviting comment. The Faculty Senate Operations Committee will serve as a key interface for policy-setting and decision-making processes as well.