

I am in front of you representing the Electrical & Computer Engineering department, home to the highest ranked engineering programs in the state of NM and one that is successfully competing nationally. One of the reasons we are able to hire excellent faculty and to recruit a large and talented group of graduate students is the investment we consciously made in our graduate program. Such an investment is only possible because of the amount of research generated by our faculty and the corresponding F&A return. At a time when a stated goal of UNM is to go from "good to great", the wrong message is being sent with the the recent financial decisions that are being made without the input of the affected academic units and leadership.

At this stage, all I have are rumors about the F&A returns, and whispers about accounts being frozen or unfrozen. Neither I nor my dean were consulted about the effects of such financial decisions on our academic or research missions. This secretive atmosphere not only affects the morale of the faculty, but will also have a lasting effect on our class offerings, hiring, and enrollments.

When I first came to UNM in 1988, I was told of the potential of this institution. I heard again yesterday from a colleague about the potential of UNM. I am tired of being at a university with untapped potential! I want UNM to be great now!