



Faculty Senate

October 27, 2015

AN OPEN LETTER TO FACULTY FROM THE FACULTY SENATE BUDGET TASK FORCE

The Budget Task Force, an ad-hoc committee of the Faculty Senate, was formed in response to the request of the Regents to the Faculty Senate to have a more active role in the budget development process with UNM administration and the Board of Regents. The objective is to provide commentary and feedback on budget related issues, which will serve as a first step in developing a collaborative budgetary relationship and structure between faculty, administration and the Board of Regents.

The Task Force includes faculty members from both main campus and the Health Sciences Center with participation of administrators from main campus and from the Health Sciences Center. The Task Force meets weekly and invites participation from interested faculty.

In the short term, the Task Force is focusing on compiling a “State of the University” set of data and reports so that we can develop a more comprehensive understanding of the budgetary process at UNM; our constraints and opportunities; and the impact these factors may have on UNM’s core mission of teaching, research and service.

Our guiding principle is that in order for faculty to be collaborative partners in the budgetary process, a basic understanding of where we are, and how we got here, is necessary. To that end, the task force has begun a process of meeting with people across campus to better understand the many aspects of the operations and budget of the university. Included in our initial work:

- Requests for the most recent audits or analysis for facilities, library collections, and shared services.
- Requests for data and metrics used for academic and non-academic units to assess efficiencies.
- Survey and research peer and aspirant universities for new budgetary solutions implemented as a response to the changing budgetary environment of public universities.
- Cataloging unfunded legislative mandates to the University.
- Survey faculty, staff, and administration for cost saving strategies.

Our goal is to provide a frank assessment of where we are and, from a faculty perspective, pinpoint areas of excellence, as well as areas where improvement is needed, or, in some cases, where

inadequate information makes it impossible to assess the current situation. Finally, we hope to propose to the Faculty Senate a revised charter for the Faculty Senate Budget Committee, so that the committee going forward will be the voice of the faculty in the budgetary process.

We gratefully acknowledge the efforts and enthusiasm of the members of the Task Force, the support of the administration to facilitate this effort and the information and feedback from the people we have consulted.

Ann Brooks – Faculty Senate Budget Task Force Co-Chair

Janie Chermak – Faculty Senate Budget Task Force Co- Chair

Stefan Posse – Faculty Senate President

Task Force Members

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