

History of Faculty Senate Interest in the Financial Matters of the University

April 30, 2008

1. Take back of funds from colleges to maintain 5% balance in central administration

2. Questions asked about funding by Faculty Senate
 - a. Provided questions to President and EVP's on December 9
 - b. Response delayed due to holiday, legislative session
 - c. Additional questions arose about growth in administration – met with Helen Gonzales (VP HR) to discuss – no information forthcoming due to working on self-insurance matters
 - d. Met with President Schmidly, he asked for the additional questions to be provided to Andrew Cullen. We gathered the best data that we could from the UNM Fact Book on the website comparing 2002 and 2007.
 - e. Additional input and questions given to Andrew Cullen – included growth in administration and cost due to salaries
 - f. At Budget Summit and in Regents' Meeting
 - a. Regents referred to the fact that we had questions and should ask them in the Regents' meeting
 - b. Speech by Regent Eaves at the Budget Summit as to the financial situation and the questions asked by Faculty Senate
 - “information is there”
 - “anyone can ask any questions they want at the Regents' meetings”
 - g. Response given on March 3 from EVP Harris. The cover letter indicated that due to their workload “my staff will be unavailable to answer any follow-up questions. Please refer all follow-up questions to the Office of the Provost.”
 - h. Responses were not clear in addressing the questions (e.g., 16.4% average increase for faculty in 1999, 8.2% in 2007, etc.). Operations Committee met with the President. President Schmidly said we should then work with Mark Chisholm to get the answers to our questions.

The growth in upper administration and the large increases in salaries given existing individuals have to be paid for somehow.

As essential stakeholders in the University, we deserve to be listened to and we deserve answers to our questions about the institution to which we are all highly committed. As faculty, we have a right to ask questions, and we have the Constitutional right to review and take action in regard to the issues noted in the UNM Faculty Constitution in regards to research, curriculum, and general faculty welfare, among other items.

And, as faculty, we have the right to be partners, equal partners, in the decision making that occurs in regards to finances at this University, which, as the President noted at the Budget Summit, signal the strategic direction of the University and its future. We have the right to be equal partners in determining the future of the University.