

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 11.5.2020

Dr. James Malm

BUDGET WORK GROUP.

This past week, an astonishing 160 million citizens—and counting—throughout the country exercised their sacred right to vote in the 2020 General Election. While we are waiting for the final count from many local, state, and national races, I would like to thank our community members for their overwhelming support of General Obligation Bonds B and C. With the passage of these bonds, UNM-Gallup will receive much-needed funding for campus renovation projects and essential services provided by our Zollinger Library.

November brings another turn of the calendar as we enter our ninth month of this COVID-19 pandemic. With the number of cases and hospitalizations on the rise in New Mexico, we continue to keep our UNM-Gallup faculty, students, and personnel as safe as possible through our very careful limited operations. Our academic year is nearing its half-way point, and our Thanksgiving and Winter Break vacations are approaching, so we must stay the course and finish this semester strong. We must also continue to follow public health guidelines, including wearing a face mask or covering and socially distancing while in public, washing our hands, and testing for COVID-19. As a reminder, the New Mexico Department of Health is conducting testing each Tuesday and Thursday from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the Lions Hall parking lot. I know it's becoming routine to hear these guidelines, but we must remain diligent as the winter sets in, and we wait for a vaccine.

Also in the coming months, we need to finalize our plans to adjust this year's Instruction and General (I&G) budget to meet the projected \$1.5 million in state appropriations and tuition and fee income reductions for this year (FY2021) and next (FY2022). In the spirit of shared governance, trust and transparency, and with equity and inclusion, I want to include members from throughout our campus to finalize these plans together.

To this end, I have commissioned a report from Robert Griego, our chief financial officer and director of business operations, and requested that we assemble an ad hoc budget adjustment working group. This group will be comprised of senior administrators and representatives of our faculty staff, student, and community members. Now through the February, we will conduct numerous listening and working sessions across the university with the end product being a collaborative plan to balance all budgets—both academic and non-academic units—that promises to maintain UNM-Gallup's continued excellence in student success, financial soundness, and campus climate. This plan will also strategically respond to the sudden and precipitous downturn in student enrollments and state appropriations we have endured since June 2020.

Please keep up the good work, and we will continue to get through this uncertain year with a spirit of good will and perseverance shared throughout our campus community.



Office of the Chancellor

Please stay safe, stay healthy, and stay engaged.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'J. Malm'.

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business