



The University of New Mexico

## The University of New Mexico 2005 State Legislative Priorities

*The following are in concert with the Council of University Presidents (CUP)*

- Full Formula Funding (Workload)
- Compensation @ 4%, including funds for increasing costs of health care coverage
- Minimum tuition credit increase

### The University of New Mexico Major Legislative Priorities

#### Priority One

#### Secure improved funding for the Health Sciences Center

The Health Sciences Center (HSC) receives appropriations from the State Legislature through line-items in the state budget for both education at the School of Medicine and for healthcare at the university's hospitals. This funding mechanism is unlike that used for the main campus. Main campus programs are funded through a formula that is the basis for the general fund appropriation. This creates challenges in accommodating increasing program size or costs for education and for healthcare delivery.

Furthermore, because tuition is a minor percentage of the total cost of education at the School of Medicine, raising tuition as a means for funding faculty salary increases even in part is not a viable option. For example, when the state funds a 2% compensation increase and the Regents approve a total 5% compensation increase the HSC must find additional dollars within existing budgets to fund any portion of that increase for faculty or staff. This is almost impossible in the face of over \$20 million in uncompensated care that the HSC provides to outside of Bernalillo County residents annually. Flat clinical revenues and growing uncompensated care has resulted in HSC being unable to give compensation increases in two of the past three years to the medical faculty. This trend is a major cause for concern due to the fact that the physician job market is highly competitive and the HSC faces the challenge of losing some of its best faculty members.

We hope to open dialogue with state government officials to identify a way to address the impact of uncompensated care and the ability of HSC to build its academic programs or growing clinical revenues.

## **Priority Two**

### **Secure long-term revenue stream to address the deteriorating infrastructure of UNM and all of higher education in New Mexico**

In recent years, the Commission on Higher Education completed a capital needs and facility condition analysis program that provides a systematic review of New Mexico's higher education facilities. The program looked in detail at existing and future needs based on existing facility conditions and projected useful life of major building systems.

The system-wide cost of remediation today is almost \$1.5 billion. New Mexico could generate that revenue through three mechanisms: cash funding, debt financing and public-private partnerships.

The President has engaged the other New Mexico university presidents, the Governor's Higher Education Taskforce, and the Governor's Finance Council to propose a ten-year solution that would require approval of the voters. Regent approval of this imaginative concept would be beneficial toward its advancement.

## **Priority Three**

### **Centennial Engineering Complex Construction Phase One**

This proposal seeks a \$21 million capital outlay request and is the number one capital priority of the University as discussed below.

The last two ABET accreditation team visits (1992 and 1998) both commented negatively on the condition of these buildings and the acute need for their replacement. Furthermore, the Computer Science and Chemical and Nuclear Engineering departments are woefully out of space. These departments are among the most research active and fastest growing at the University. **Construction of the Centennial Engineering Complex is critical to executing the state's economic development strategy of creating a knowledge-based economy in New Mexico through university-led research activities.**

This phase of the project consists of a new 140,000 square foot School of Engineering Building to replace Wagner and Tapy Halls

and the Engineering Annex. This will house Civil, Chemical and Nuclear Engineering, the Computer Science Department, Engineering Student Programs, Minority Student Programs, and the School of Engineering administrative offices. These programs collaborate actively with Health Sciences biotech and bio-engineering efforts.

The total cost of phase one is \$30,825,000. The proposed sources of funding are as follows:

Legislative Appropriations (STB)	\$ 905,250
Legislative Appropriations (GOB)	\$ 4,000,000
Private Funds	\$ 5,000,000
2005 Legislative Request	<u>\$20,919,750</u>
TOTAL	\$30,825,000

**Priority Four**

**Creation of a combined Bachelor of Arts & Medical Doctor degree program and expanding the School of Medicine**

This proposal seeks an appropriation of \$805,800 for this year. This project would take a multi-year commitment from the University and the Legislature to continue to fund the incremental costs of the new program.

Funding will support a program designed to increase enrollment of rural New Mexican students in the UNM School of Medicine.

The program builds on the SOM's educational pipeline directed at middle school, high school, pre-college and college students interested in a career in medicine. Students will be admitted from high school to both the UNM College of Arts and Sciences and the SOM. Local communities will participate in identifying, encouraging, and mentoring potential applicants.

The SOM will increase enrollment from the current 75 students to 100 students per year, with all 25 new students coming from NM. Most (at least 2/3) of these students will come from rural communities.

**Priority Five****Creation of State Support for Research**

The State of New Mexico has made a large investment in its universities and colleges, particularly the research universities. Competitive research dollars generated from outside New Mexico in the current fiscal year are in excess of \$350 million and are a major source of employment in the state's economy. Estimates of the economic multiplier effect of research dollars in the economy range from 3 to 4.

State support for university research activities could assist with grant proposal writing; provide "seed" money required for certain grant applications, or enhance any number of research-related activities – all designed to increase the amount of research grants coming into the State.

This proposal seeks an appropriation based on a calculation of 1% of the total sponsored research. For all six universities the funding request would consist of \$3.5 million of which \$2.1 million is UNM's share, or 60%.

**Priority Six****Continued Funding for the National LambdaRail Project**

National LambdaRail (NLR) is a major initiative of U.S. research universities and private sector technology companies to provide a national scale infrastructure for research and experimentation in networking technologies and applications.

NLR aims to catalyze innovative research and development into next generation network technologies, protocols, services and applications.

NLR puts the control, the power and the promise of experimental network infrastructure in the hands of our nation's scientists and researchers.

The Governor and Representative Danice Picraux secured an appropriation of \$1 million in the 2004 Legislative Session, leaving \$4 million unfunded.

**Priority Seven****Law School Library Funding**

When the American Bar Association and the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) did a site visit for accreditation purposes in 2001, the AALS determined that they would not agree to continue the law school as a member if we did not increase our

acquisition funds. They are the scholarly organization of law schools. The argument is that the law school must be able to support the scholarly needs of faculty and students -- if not, the school's membership is at stake.

The proposal seeks state funding for the School of Law Library in amounts of \$500,000 in non-recurring funding and \$250,000 in recurring funding.

**Priority Eight**

**Zimmerman Library Compact Storage Funding**

The University Libraries have the sole distinction in New Mexico of being a member of the Association of Research Libraries (ARL). That is a critical designation for any top-tier research university. The number of collections that the university libraries have available to the community it serves is ever expanding and crucial to keep their designation as an ARL library.

Currently the university libraries add 1.5 shelf miles to their collections annually and they are reaching maximum storage capacity. Through the addition of compact shelving systems to the libraries the available space could be better utilized. The estimated cost of installation is \$10 million.

This proposal seeks funding to begin the planning and installation of the compact storage shelving systems at the university libraries.

**Priority Nine**

**Athletics Capital Funding**

The Athletics Department has identified only those items that have already been initiated, but funding is incomplete or those items vital for the functionality of the Department in fulfilling its mission.

- a. Basketball practice facility - \$ 1.5 million
- b. L.F. "Tow" Diehm facility HVAC - \$ 1.5 million
- c. Women's Softball Complex improvements - \$ 500,000
- d. Track resurfacing - \$ 850,000