



THE UNIVERSITY of
NEW MEXICO

Office of the Provost



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

March 25, 2015

The best way to predict the future is to invent it.

—Alan Kay

The State of New Mexico Budget: On Saturday, March 21, the New Mexico legislature wrapped up their 60-day session. They forwarded a budget of \$6.2 billion to Governor Martinez who has 20 days to sign it. The total Higher Education budget was increased by 1.2 percent to \$8.48 billion while the UNM main campus budget received 1.1 percent increase to about \$1.9 billion. The total UNM state budget allocation (including the Health Science Center, Branch Campuses, and Research Public Service Projects) stands now at \$3.18 billion, a 0.96 percent increase. The legislature failed, however, to agree on funding the \$264 million public works package. If nothing changes, UNM (Main Campus & HSC) will then receive an additional \$2.1 billion in new funding. The additional funding is due to the “outcomes formula.”

Faculty Worklife Survey Report: In the fall of 2013, the Office of the Vice Provost for Research and the Office of Academic Affairs conducted a Faculty Worklife Survey. The UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research produced a report on that survey, which is [now available](#). I encourage you to check out the report and leave your [comments here](#).

Research Expenditures at UNM and Beyond: UNM is one of the 108 RU/VH (Research Universities/Very High research activity) institutions of which 72 are public institutions. The [Carnegie classification](#) first considers doctorate-granting universities, or those institutions that awarded at least 20 doctorates in 2003–04. Those universities are further classified by level of research activity, including measures such as research expenditures, number of research doctorates awarded, number of research-focused faculty, and so on. The RU/VH is thus the highest research classification. But have you considered where the research funds come from? According to the [National Science Foundation \(NSF\) data](#), all R&D expenditures totaled more than \$67 billion in 2013, of which \$39 billion came from the federal government, and around \$15 billion came from institutional funds. The remainder came from state governments as well as businesses, non-profits, and a host of other sources.

[According to NSF:](#) “Institutional funds encompass institutionally financed research expenditures and unrecovered indirect costs and cost sharing. They exclude departmental research, which is a more informal type of research that is usually coupled with instructional activities in departmental budget accounts and thus does not meet the Office of Management and Budget definition of organized research. The share of support represented by institutional funds increased steadily from 12 percent in 1972 to 19 percent in 1991, and it has remained near 20 percent in the subsequent years (it is currently around 22 percent). Funds for institutionally financed R&D may derive from general-purpose state or local government appropriations; general-purpose awards from industry, foundations, or other outside sources; endowment income; and gifts. Universities may also use income from patents and licenses or revenue from patient care to support R&D.” Institutional funds also support non-funded research by faculty and students, internal competitions, etc. UNM’s institutional funds used to support research stand at almost 24 percent while the overall average is around 22 percent. Further examination of the [national research data](#) reveals that UNM secures by far the largest higher education R&D funds of any high-Hispanic-enrollment institution.

Karl Remarks and Banning Opinions: I have recently discovered a satirist who happened to be from my birth country and who is an architect by profession. I thought one of his [latest pieces](#) could serve as a satire of some of our own political and academic spheres. His suggestion, or the one he puts in the mouth of Egyptian leader Abdel-Fattah al-Sisi, is that opinions should be banned, since having different opinions propagates falsehoods (“If you have two opinions, it means 50 percent of them are wrong. If you have three, then 66 percent of them are wrong, and if you

have four, then 75 percent of them are wrong. It is clear that more opinions mean more falsehoods and untruths.”). I hope that you get a chuckle from [Karl’s columns](#).

Higher Education Act White Papers: The Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN) released three white papers on the anticipated reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Specifically, they focus on “[Higher Education Accreditation: Concepts and Proposals](#),” “[Risk Sharing: Concepts and Proposals](#),” and “[Consumer Information: Concepts and Proposals](#).”

Early Childhood Development and Health Symposium: On April 23-24 the University of New Mexico and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Center for Health Policy at UNM will be hosting an Early Childhood Development and Health Symposium at the Sheraton Uptown in Albuquerque. The Symposium is a significant opportunity for those engaged in and committed to improving early childhood policies locally, nationally, and internationally. Participants will spend a day exploring and learning about the latest thinking and research related to early childhood. For more information please visit [the RWJF website](#).

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