

**University Committee on Academic Priorities  
December 20, 2011**

**Provost's Values and Vision:**

**Uniquely New Mexico:** New Mexico is a state with a rich and diverse cultural heritage, as well as a unique blend of science, engineering, and arts. What NM lacks in financial resources, it more than makes up for it in culture and quality of life. The University of New Mexico must take advantage of its special location and its proximity to the national laboratories and the cultural hubs in the state by establishing unique and socially relevant educational experiences.

If successful, the University of New Mexico will in 10 years be one of the top choices of the best New Mexico High School graduates, a magnet for out-of-state students interested in unique programs, where the Academic programs are vibrant and globally relevant, where the faculty is fully engaged in teaching and research at all levels (undergraduate/graduate, big science and small investigator programs), where the social wellness of the campus community is high, where every student is multilingual, and where the state of NM is proud of its flagship university.

I see the future of UNM as an open access university where all NM students who are willing to work hard are admitted to main campus if we think they can succeed in a rigorous program, or to a branch campus if they cannot do so immediately, but have the potential to in a smaller college setting. UNM should have a need-blind admission policy to all NM students.

**What I do not believe:** A university is not just a place to learn "how," but rather a place to ask "why" or "why not." Focusing on an "economic development" mission at the exclusion of other aspects of education is short sighted, and puts UNM and other universities in conflict with the mission of trade schools and community colleges.

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**Work Group Themes:**

**1. Value/Value Systems & Comparative Advantage**

Who do we serve?  
Purpose of higher education  
Service to "emerging majority"  
Attitude towards competition  
UNM in New Mexico  
Notion of a flagship university  
Global footprint  
Infrastructure and Facilities  
Libraries

**2. Improving Undergraduate Education**

Access, affordability, standards  
Retention  
Incentives for good teaching  
Contingent faculty  
On campus housing  
Rationalize branch instruction  
Academics & athletics

**3. New Institutional Models**

Interdisciplinary the norm  
Rationalize program assessment  
Relationship to city and state

Smart growth  
Role and voice of faculty

#### **4. Research & Graduate Education**

Role/cost of being the flagship Research I institution in the State  
State funding formula  
Link with national laboratories

#### **5. Financial Analysis**

Reduce costs  
New tuition models  
Economic impact

#### **Other notes/comments from the meeting:**

Need to focus on quality and value of our degrees  
Need to come to terms with the cost of being a flagship Research I university  
Need more clarity on the goals of this planning exercise  
Can't forget the workforce development component of what we do as a university  
Collaboration as the skill of the future  
We should emerge as the model for "serving the emerging majority"  
We must set goals around outcomes  
We must define "effective support" for our student  
We must answer the question, "what can we do that no one else can do"  
We should keep the AAU metrics in mind as we set goals – not to emulate these institutions but to model their behaviors  
We must implement an Honors College  
We must look at models that create cohorts of students with different achievement levels and result in high achievement outcomes