

Chancellor Weekly Brief | 1.15.2021

Dr. James Malm

MLK DAY.

While this coming Monday marks the official beginning of our spring semester, it is also a day of remembrance for one of our country's great heroes and leaders, Martin Luther King, Jr. It is a day that we are reminded that, although our history is imperfect, we are each called to form a more perfect union where all citizens are created and treated as equal and have a right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

This most critical work to build up each other, improve our community, and ensure a more prosperous future for all is why we are called to service each year on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. It is not just a day of remembrance, but a day to volunteer. And I encourage each of you to find a way to give back on Monday in honor of one of our nation's great leaders.

I'd like to also take this opportunity to encourage our students who have not yet enrolled for our spring semester to do so now. Your continued pursuit of your educational goals is more important than ever as we will begin to emerge from this pandemic and turmoil facing our country. Stay the course and ensure that you are well prepared to compete in the job market and fulfill your goals to build a wonderful life for you and your family. Connect today with an advisor, register for classes, and continue along your path. Even in the midst of the many difficulties we are all facing, I am confident that you will succeed.

UNM-GALLUP SCHEDULE OPTIMIZATION

We are a campus community that continuously looks for innovation and optimization to benefit our mission. With that aim, we have started a course schedule optimization process with the goal to identify and implement best practices to assist in the transformation of our approach to course scheduling that leads to efficiencies.

In building a framework for this process, we will identify key members within our campus who will serve as standing members on a schedule refinement team; along with ad hoc members who will provide their expertise in specific areas. Jayme McMahon, our Director of Student Affairs will lead this effort and this team charged with collecting, managing, and analyzing data pertaining to course scheduling, enrollment, and space utilization. Importantly, these members will refine our scheduling processes to plan for emerging student demographics and evolving student needs and preferences.

As a campus serving a diverse student population, adjusting our scheduling processes to plan for the future and incorporate flexibility using a data-driven approach will undoubtedly increase our ability to accommodate our students' needs.

BUDGET ADJUSTMENT WORKING GROUP

I have also commissioned a Budget Adjustment Working Group that is chaired by Robert Griego, Director of Business Operations. This work group will be comprised of senior administrators and representatives from our faculty, staff, and students who will conduct several listening and working sessions over the next 60 days. Their final deliverable will be a plan to address our required budget adjustments for Fiscal Year 2022 for both academic and non-academic units.

My gratitude to Jayme and Robert—and members of our scheduling and budgeting groups—for their work to maintain UNM-Gallup's continued excellence in student success, financial soundness, and campus climate. Your stewardship of our campus ensures that we are fully prepared to fulfil our mission today, tomorrow, and the years to come.

My best wishes to all of you as we approach the start of our spring semester. We have many bright days ahead of us, and I am so honored to serve alongside each of you for the success of our students.

Please stay safe and stay well.

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business