

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 4/10/2020

Dr. James Malm

Working Toward the Future.

Over the past several weeks, we all worked tirelessly to overcome a number of obstacles and challenges in transitioning our courses to remote instruction. While this pandemic has uprooted our normal course of operations, we are exhibiting the strength of our UNM-Gallup community through creating a path toward the successful completion of this semester. We are certainly in this together and will remain flexible and patient with each other to ensure our success.

Now that we have transitioned to remote instruction, we are opening up summer and fall registration on Monday, April 13. Kudos to all who worked to bring advising, registration, and financial aid resources and operations online, including a Web chat feature available at gallup.unm.edu/advising. I encourage students to schedule their advisement appointment if they have not already done so—please check LoboAchieve for available appointments.

With classes in progress—and a focus on registration—we are also working toward what’s inevitably a new normal for all of us. The good news is that our nationwide stay-at-home and social distancing efforts are having a positive impact on the health and safety of our families and community. I’m hopeful that this will lead us in the coming weeks and months to the eventual reopening of our facilities and fitness trail.

While we are not quite at that point in the course of this pandemic, UNM-Gallup is taking steps now to plan for the wonderful eventuality that we will hold classes on campus in the near future. These steps include:

- Deep cleaning our facilities, classrooms, and laboratories throughout campus to prepare for our return to classroom instruction.
- Reviewing our ability to offer bookstore items online. As social distancing efforts are underway, we are examining an appropriate workflow to have textbooks and other necessary bookstore items available for purchase online. Even when social distancing measures are relaxed, this will provide a level of convenience to our community.
- To address student access to technology, we are researching ways that we might leverage our purchasing power to provide products (e.g. laptops, mobile devices, hotspots) and Wi-Fi options to our faculty, staff, and students for purchase online through our bookstore. We are currently exploring possible solutions and will provide updates to all, including options that are currently available through LoboPerks.
- Boosting campus Wi-Fi access. While students may sit in their car to access UNM-Gallup Wi-Fi, we have found that it is not sufficient to meet the needs of a large number of users who might access the Internet from our campus parking lots at the same time. We are in the process of analyzing and implementing solutions to boost our campus Wi-Fi externally (parking lots, picnic tables, etc.) for access with your UNM NetId.

I acknowledge the challenges some within our community might have in finishing this semester through remote instruction. The reality is that there are no easy answers, but we have provided our faculty with options to work directly with each student on assignments and grading. And, we are committed to exploring how we might procure technology at a lower cost for those who need additional options, boosting our Wi-Fi signal in our parking lots, and preparing our campus for the eventual safe return of our wonderful community members.

I invite you to join me at the end of each weekday at 4 p.m. on Zoom for the Chancellor's Open Office Hour. It's an opportunity for us to share questions, concerns, and resources—as well as check in with each other during this period of separation. The Zoom Meeting Link is: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/209786397>.

There is emerging good news during these difficult times. We are open, we are instructing our students in a quality fashion, and we are preparing for the near future.

Please be well and have a wonderful Easter weekend.

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm
Professor of Business
Chancellor

Helpful UNM-Gallup Links:

[UNM-Gallup Coronavirus Updates](#)

[UNM Main Campus Coronavirus Updates](#)

[Adobe License for Faculty & Students](#)

[Faculty Resources](#)

[Student Resources](#) | [Advising](#)

[Student Survey](#)

[Community Resources](#)