

Chancellor Weekly Brief – 8.27.2020

Dr. James Malm

CIVIC DUTY.

Yesterday marked 100 years since the 19th Amendment was added to the constitution, finally guaranteeing women the right to vote. This wonderful anniversary reminds us to not only protect and build diversity, inclusion, and equity in the public square, but also in organizations and institutions such as UNM-Gallup. As a public university, we honor the mutually beneficial relationship that we have with our local community--and appreciate our public officials and other local leaders who participate in civic duties to make UNM-Gallup and our community a better place to live, work, and learn.

Our UNM-Gallup Local Advisory Board—as you know—is comprised of individuals from our community who meet with campus leadership throughout the year to ensure the good stewardship of our campus. This board performs a civic duty to represent the interests of the Gallup community which, of course, has a stake in the success of UNM-Gallup.

This past Wednesday, [August 25](#), the advisory board met in its official capacity to discuss several items related to ongoing campus operations, enrollment, and our financial health. I began the meeting with a status report on the start of our fall semester, indicating that we are open, doing well, and performing our core mission—although mostly via remote instruction at this time with a few essential courses held on campus. It is with tremendous gratitude and respect for all our UNM-Gallup faculty and personnel for their fortitude and collegiality during this pandemic to deliver an excellent, high-quality experience for our students.

Dr. Daniel Primozic—our dean of instruction—delivered his report to the board, discussing the ongoing efforts of our Ad-hoc Prioritization Committee. In a spirit of transparency to our campus and community, he shared with the board the review process underway that establishes rather objective parameters for the committee to follow:

- Each UNM-Gallup degree program and certificate will be reviewed and scored for quality and relevance. You can view the rubric developed by the committee in the board packet.
- Approximately three to four programs and certificates will be reviewed per meeting.
- Once all programs have been reviewed by the committee, scores will be contextualized and evaluated.
- Upon the conclusion of the assessment of the academic quality and relevance of UNM-Gallup programs, the committee will consider the costs, necessary investments, and curriculum committee reports as they pertain to each program in the committee's recommendations.

Our director of business operations Robert Griego reported to the advisory board that we are certainly facing financial headwinds caused by this pandemic, but the work of our prioritization committee will assist us in measuring the success of our programs and ensure that we are continuing to meet local demand with our degrees and certificates. In his financial report to the board, Robert also expanded on the good news that UNM-Gallup received around \$400,000 in additional CARES Act funds to cover COVID-related expenses and

recover some lost revenue. Additionally, he reported that we ended the prior fiscal year with a surplus—and will continue sound fiscal management even as we face continued budget challenges.

Jayne McMahon, our director of student affairs, shared the good news that we're seeing an increase in our headcount and credit hours at the start of this semester. [In the most recent dashboard](#), our headcount is moving up to 91 percent and student credit hours are at 82 percent—up considerably from the early numbers we were seeing at the beginning of the pandemic in March. Jayme suggested that the variance in student credit hours could very well be caused by the challenges of remote instruction, and the uncertainty this pandemic presents to our students at this time. We are encouraged to see students continuing their education and choosing our campus to stay on course during these unprecedented times.

Another civic duty important to the UNM-Gallup campus community is responding to the 2020 Census. Public institutions, of course, rely on an accurate population count to secure much-needed funding from state and national sources. Each year, New Mexico receives around \$7 billion through federal programs that benefit our entire community on a per capita basis. It is essential to have an accurate count, so please be sure that you are [counted in this census](#). Responses are secure but must be submitted before September 30.

To all our good citizens at UNM-Gallup—and the members of our local advisory board—thank you for all that you accomplish each day for our campus and Gallup community. Even during these challenging times, we are doing the good work for the well-being and success of our students.

Please stay safe and be well!

Best Regards,

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

Dr. James R. Malm, Chancellor
Professor of Business