

Prioritizing programs means less opportunities

Recently, the University of New Mexico-Gallup Local Advisory Board discussed “program prioritization” during a virtual meeting Feb. 19. Much of the meeting focused on UNM-Gallup’s budget and enrollment during the ongoing pandemic. Not surprisingly, COVID-19 has created an “unstable revenue stream” for UNM-Gallup.

By prioritizing academic programs, UNM-G hopes to further cut costs since revenue is down. Daniel Primozić, dean of instruction divulged that six programs have been eliminated because they weren’t attracting enrollment and meeting the needs of students. Although one of those programs was an associate degree in criminal justice and law enforcement, Primozić said UNM-Gallup officials might look to the local law enforcement community for feedback about the possible need for the establishment of a local law enforcement academy.

Dean Primozić said he was organizing an ad hoc Academic Innovation Committee, the purpose being to recommend, review, and discuss new

programs for UNM-Gallup students. He also explained instructional plans for summer and fall classes and noted that faculty members are ready to respond to whatever happens with COVID-19.

Despite all of that, prioritizing programs means less opportunities for students. For those pursuing a career in criminal justice or education, they are left in the lurch. And in our area where there is a shortage of teachers in schools and law enforcement need recruits, cutting such programs isn’t helpful. We hope that the six academic programs that were cut will be reconsidered once the pandemic subsides.

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