

Greetings from the Roundhouse, Lobos!

This past weekend found us engaged on many different bills working their way through the legislative process. The UNM Government Relations team is also actively assessing some encouraging progress made to date on many different UNM initiatives, now that we are a little more than midway through this 30-day legislative session.

Thursday, February 3 marked an important procedural turning point for the session for two reasons: (1) all bills for lawmaker consideration this session needed to be introduced by the prior day, February 2, meaning that Thursday was the first day unencumbered by the daily introduction of dozens of daily new bills; also (2) on Thursday, House Bill 2, the state's primary budget and agency spending bill each year, was adopted by the House of Representatives by a vote of 56-13 as a committee substitute bill approved by the House Appropriations and Finance Committee earlier in the week. In all, the House introduced 250 bills, irrespective of memorials and resolutions, for the 2022 session; the Senate has introduced 255 bills by the same metric.

With so much information in play at the session's midpoint, we'll attempt to structure the remaining status updates to track with a number of identified priorities, both big and small. More details may be found on our UNM Office of Government and Community Relations website.

- **House Bill 2:** Please click [here](#) for the “[Mid-Session HB2 UNM analysis](#)” and associated attachments as we enter the final 2 weeks of the session. Notably, HB2 recommends a 3% compensation increase for the final quarter of FY22, and a 4% average increase, on top of the 3%, for FY23. Exactly how these increases are funded in the final version of HB2 will be important to the rollout of a final compensation package. Momentum continues to increase for a \$15/hr. minimum wage for applicable educators and staff. Overall instruction and general (I&G) funding increases are mixed, based on our original request for a 10% I&G increase.
- **“Junior” Appropriations Bill:** the bill in its current draft (and unpublished) form includes only the Senate “adds” to that legislation. We expect House “adds” to be woven into the legislation in the coming days, prior to the bill crossing over from Senate to House. The extent to which a “junior” appropriations bill is authorized by the legislature each year depends on the availability of additional unobligated cash flows for the state, and typically involves building on recurring or non-recurring projects in the \$50k range and up. UNM was very active in this space this year, pushing out dozens of requests to support many programs and services. GPSA reported back significant progress on one of their graduate student initiatives that may be included in the “junior” package. More information soon on continued progress!

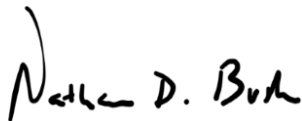
- **Capital Outlay Requests:** these are intended to support campus infrastructure. Our highest-level general obligation (“GO”) bond priorities for the Center for Collaborative Arts and Technology (CCAT) on Central Campus and the Children’s Psychiatric Center (CPC) on Health Sciences campus remain intact, but currently funded a step below our original target requests as those were developed in the interim. Continued momentum exists for \$45 million for CCAT and \$38 million for CPC. We continue to be supportive of the legislature’s recommendation in this regard. Beyond these two items, UNM is also active a wide range of other capital outlay requests that tap the state’s general Bond process and/or severance tax bond process.
- **Workforce Pipeline Initiatives:** Teacher education is a top priority for the state this year. To this end, the House has included large amounts of funding in HB2 to support teacher candidates and Educator Preparation Programs. HB2 includes \$20 million for the Teacher Preparation Affordability Scholarship and \$500 thousand for the Grow Your Own Teacher Scholarship. It also includes \$250 thousand dollars for a new Teacher Education Consortium to be housed at the Higher Education Department, \$5.5 million for teacher residency programs, and \$50 million dollars for Endowed Faculty Positions in Educator Preparation Programs. HB2 includes \$100 thousand for teacher pipeline initiatives on the Albuquerque campus. Additionally, policymakers included two nonrecurring appropriations for statewide nursing workforce development. A \$15 million transfer to the Higher Education Department’s Program Enhancement Fund will support nursing programs with one-time costs, and \$30 million to create Endowed Faculty Positions to increase nursing degree production statewide.
- **Lottery scholarship:** The Lottery Scholarship, which supports up to 15 thousand students statewide each year, is one of the largest Scholarship programs in the state. HB2 includes a non-recurring transfer of \$140 million to the Lottery Scholarship Fund. In FY23, LFC estimates \$65 million will be required for Lottery awards and \$40 million in lottery revenues will be available for the program. The proposed nonrecurring appropriation would cover the gap in funding in FY23 and in subsequent years. Way to go, ASUNM and other the broad community of UNM partners who have actively supported more available scholarships and financial security for incoming and existing undergraduate students!
- **School of Public Health:** [Senate Bill 119](#) contains \$20 million for operational costs at UNM’s School of Public Health, \$50 million for a building on UNM’s campus, and \$5 million to support NMSU’s Public Health Program. The bill had a successful hearing in Senate Health and Public Affairs Committee and is currently awaiting a hearing from the Senate Finance Committee.

- **Research Parks:** [Senate Bill 41](#) is a bill that changes the way some university-affiliated research parks are structured. Currently these research parks successfully operate as hybrid entities with a mix of both public and private functionalities that allow them to be an effective bridge between university research and commercial ventures. SB 41 shifts this balance, deeming research parks to be public employers for certain purposes if a research park “owns, operates or manages a health care facility or employs individuals who work at a health care facility” in the latest version of the bill. We will continue to work with our partners to limit the negative impacts of this legislation.

We are fortunate to have an active Lobo “pack” during this unique and logistically challenging legislative session. Public health restrictions remain in place at the Roundhouse, with House committees meeting virtually, Senate committees operating using a hybrid format where remote participation is encouraged, and floor sessions in each chamber occurring with vast numbers of empty seats in the galleries. The latest event to be put on hold was this year’s Hoops for Hope (House vs. Senate) basketball game that normally benefits patient care at UNM Comprehensive Cancer Center. Aside from other risks and complications, local high schools in Santa Fe who have traditionally served as venues for that Hoops for Hope game are currently unable to accommodate crowds of any size due to ongoing COVID-19-related restrictions.

Please continue to check our [UNM Office of Government and Community Relations website](#) for updates on our collective legislative progress.

With much appreciation to our students, faculty, staff, Senior Leadership, Regents, and of course our amazing community partners,



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