

March 24, 2022

Greetings Lobo Friends and Colleagues,

It's Springtime in New Mexico. Along with this past week's wind, dust, rain, and snow, the state's legislative climate remains as unsettled as the weather. We would like to take a moment and reflect on where things stand and update you on what to expect in the coming weeks.

The 2022 State Legislative Session wrapped up on February 17, and Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham's signing period ended on March 9. A [final legislative report](#) for UNM's outcomes from the session, focused primarily on state appropriations and associated funding for UNM operations, programs, and infrastructure, may be found [here](#).

Despite achieving some level of finality in regards to the 2022 Session, several issues remain unsettled in the eyes of legislators and the Governor. Legislators have strongly objected to the [Governor's wholesale veto](#) of [Senate Bill 48](#), the so-called "Junior" appropriations bill. That bill would have included \$3.7 million for UNM spread over 30 projects and programs. The bill was not limited to UNM appropriations but encompassed legislative requests from every member of the legislature.

For her part, the Governor has expressed discontent with the several legislative outcomes, including her criticisms related to the legislative construction of SB48. Furthermore, growing general inflationary pressures, further exacerbated by very high consumer prices for gasoline at the pump, have found lawmakers of all stripes eager to appease constituents with cost-cutting legislation. This all adds up to unrest in Santa Fe and across the state of New Mexico from the legislative perspective.

Perhaps not surprisingly, last Friday, the Legislature and Governor came to an agreement on the timing and general parameters for a special session that will convene on April 5, with legislators aiming to wrap up work by April 6. Early signals from the Executive and Legislative branches are that SB48, alongside various means of returning taxpayer dollars to constituents intended to offset inflationary pressures on consumers, will be front-and-center for this special session.

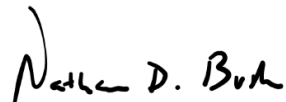
The UNM Office of Government and Community Relations has already begun doing outreach to SB48 constituents to shore up rationale and continued justification for UNM projects that were funded by this legislative vehicle. We will leverage this information to tout the merits of each and every line item that was vetoed in SB48. If you have any questions, please contact our [Government Relations team](#).

As a reminder, we encourage you to join our Government Relations community and receive regular legislative updates by [submitting a online request](#) to be added to our listserv.

As you will likely glean from the [final legislative report](#), today we have much to celebrate. Simply put, the Pack has prevailed, and we have overcome many obstacles, COVID-19 included, in having our voices heard by policymakers throughout the state in recent months. On behalf of UNM leadership and our Government Relations team, we cannot thank you enough for your passionate interest and pursuit of public policy excellence that supports fellow Lobos and all those communities we aim to serve to the highest standards.

With Lobo pride and appreciation to all,

Nathan



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