

September 10, 2009

Dear Colleagues,

I want to begin by extending congratulations and thanks to all of you for a very productive year for sponsored research. Thanks to the efforts of faculty and other principal investigators, UNM's main campus had \$113.4M in research expenditures (not including student financial aid), \$236.4M in proposal submissions, and received \$133.3M in new awards. These were increases of 6.2%, 17%, and 18.5% over FY08, respectively. The research expenditures generated \$18.4M in F&A on main campus, allowing us to balance the FY09 budget by \$4K. In addition, I want to thank UNM faculty and staff for their extraordinary efforts in response to stimulus funding opportunities, particularly those that have developed successful proposals on extremely short notice. Additional details about FY09 accomplishments and expenditures are available in the *OVPR FY09 Year in Review* (<http://research.unm.edu/>).

By now, we are all aware of the financial challenges that are facing the state and, in turn, the university. With the grim financial outlook projected over the next several years, it is increasingly important that we focus on the things that set UNM apart from our peers and solidify our role as a flagship university. In this light, the research mission of the university is a critical priority of the administration.

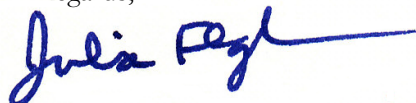
As a commitment to this priority, President Schmidly, Provost Ortega, and EVP Harris have agreed not to cut the overall F&A budget or harvest any F&A balances during FY10. In addition, my office will not cut the fixed amount (\$6.2M) budgeted for discretionary distribution to units. These funds will be allocated quarterly based on the colleges' and centers' share of overall F&A generation. As has always been the case, the OVPR will allocate F&A funds to the college, and the college then has sole discretion as to the method of allocation to their respective departments, centers, institutes and faculty.

The FY07 deficit in the OVPR was covered by a loan provided by A&S, SOE, COE, CHTM and CMEM. The loan agreement calls for one-third of the loan to be paid in each of FY09, FY10 and FY11. The first loan payment was made during Spring '09. My office will be contacting the relevant Deans and Center Directors to make the second loan payment next week.

We continue to pursue improvements at all levels of the research office, and I appreciate your patience and support as we make the changes required to enhance research and creative activity. In support of these changes, the President, Provost and EVP for Administration have also agreed that F&A generation over that committed in the FY10 budget will be divided among deficit reduction, increased discretionary return to units and research initiatives.

It is my hope that these efforts will provide maximum flexibility to Deans, Directors, and Chairs as we all work together to navigate the challenges presented in the coming year. Please join me in thanking the President, Provost, and EVP for Administration for their willingness to work with us in our efforts to enhance faculty research and advance the research mission of the university.

Regards,



Julia E. Fulghum
Vice President for Research

Cc: President David Schmidly
EVP for Academic Affairs and Provost Suzanne Ortega
EVP for Administration David Harris