

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Contacts:

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AG Balderas and UNM President Stokes Committed to Positive Change

Albuquerque, NM - Attorney General Hector Balderas and UNM President Garnett Stokes, after meeting earlier this week, have declared a shared commitment to actively looking for ways to positively change the way the two organizations work together in service to the University community and the citizens of New Mexico.

“I am optimistic that UNM, under President Stokes' leadership, will be held accountable for improving cooperation and creating greater efficiencies in the interest of serving justice and being open and transparent,” said Attorney General Balderas. “We will be working together to create solutions, break down silos and ensure coordination, collaboration and transparency at the University as our investigation progresses. This is the type of long-term outcome that New Mexicans are owed.”

By modeling best practices both entities can provide clear, accurate, and supportive direction and action to ensure that the processes in place at UNM are functioning well and if improvement or optimization should be considered.

“I appreciate AG Balderas’ position and continued willingness to work with UNM,” said Stokes, who has pledged that building and maintaining public trust is a priority of her administration. “I found our meeting to be productive and I am encouraged by what will, no doubt, be the first of many conversations. It is not only our responsibility to be responsive and timely to requests, but to also seek clarification early on.”

Please see attached for a letter Attorney General Balderas sent to President Stokes after their meeting earlier this week.

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STATE OF NEW MEXICO
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL



HECTOR H. BALDERAS
ATTORNEY GENERAL

May 09, 2018

President Garnett Stokes
MSC05 3300
1 University of New Mexico
Albuquerque, NM 87131-0001

Via Email: mgarrity@unm.edu,

Re: Our Recent Meeting

Dear President Stokes,

I want to personally thank you for taking the time to meet with me on May 7th in response to my April 30, 2018 letter to you and University of New Mexico (UNM) Regents. I'm encouraged to see that we share common ground on many of the issues outlined in the letter, including improving the process which UNM handles referrals to appropriate outside agencies when there are allegations involving UNM staff. I am committed to working with you and your administration at the University to implement solutions that foster transparency and remove conflict. It would be beneficial for us to further the conversation about the benefits of an independent Inspector General within the University.

Regarding my ongoing investigation, I'm encouraged that we are both committed to working together to move through the investigation cooperatively. My staff remains willing to work with your administration to make the search for and transfer of records requested as seamless as possible. Although we must protect the integrity of our investigation, as we identify areas of risk within the University structure, we will timely identify those to you and your administration, as we are able, so as to assist with your plan to implement positive changes within the University.

Again, I thank you for taking the time to meet with me and I'm sure this is just the first of many conversations in our partnership to strengthen the University. The University's students and taxpayers deserve our attention and collaboration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Hector Balderas".

Hector Balderas
Attorney General