



Advisory Board Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2026 | 5:30pm – 7:00pm

Lecture Hall, Building 2

MEETING CANCELED

The UNM-LA Advisory Board Meeting scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2026, has been cancelled following a discussion between the Board Chair, Kristin Henderson, and UNM-LA Chancellor, Mike Holtzclaw. This decision is due to the absence of any outstanding Board Business requiring discussion or action.

The UNM-LA Executive Team provided updates and reports from their respective areas which are included in this packet.

- Chancellor, Mike Holtzclaw
- Dean of Instruction, Brent Pickett
- Director of Student Services, Danielle Gonzales

The next scheduled UNM-LA Advisory Board Meeting is Monday, April 13, 2026, from 5:30-7PM at the UNM-LA Lecture Hall, Building 2.

UNM-Los Alamos Advisory Board Report | Chancellor's Report

Staffing

Aubrey Lanham, my new executive assistant, started on February 9th. She is originally from Carlsbad but has been living in Los Alamos for the last 10 years. We are interviewing finalists for the Director of Business Operations and hope to have someone hired and starting by the time we have our board meeting in April.

Legislative Session

The 30-day session focused mostly on the budget and a few other priorities of the governor and legislature. The governor has not signed everything yet, so it could change, but at this point these are the important outcomes from the legislative session for UNM-LA. The state is proposing a 1% cost of living increase for all state employees. UNM-LA submitted three capital projects, but only two are recommended and awaiting the governor's signature. They are:

- Building 4 – new roof, stucco repair, and new paint on the outside of the building (\$150,000).
- Buildings 1/7 – new roof, since they share the same one, and building 1 will have an extensive remodel with new energy-efficient doors and windows, asbestos abatement, new flooring, paint, furniture and the kitchen and bathrooms will be updated to meet current ADA standards. (\$3 million will come from the state and our local 25% required match will come from the proceeds of the bonds that were approved by Los Alamos County voters in November 2025).

Construction Updates

- The Open Space Project, Phase 1 (the front entry of the campus), is substantially completed. There are some more signs, lighting, and vegetation to be installed but the stairs, ramp and parking lot are open. This project has dramatically improved the safety and accessibility of the front part of our campus as well as improved wayfinding. Finally, it has greatly improved our visibility from Diamond Drive and emphasizes that we are part of UNM. I have already received numerous comments from the public and staff about how much better the front part of the campus looks.
- Building 8 – The new ceramic and art studios are complete, and we began to offer classes this spring in the new spaces.
- Open Space Project, Phase 2 will begin later this spring. This project will address issues with ADA, safety, and lighting. In addition, it will continue the new branding, signage, and general look from Phase 1, so that the campus has a unified and consistent look. This project should take approximately 12 months to complete.

- There are a few smaller projects that we will begin in 2026 – new locker rooms to support the fitness center we plan to open in fall of 2026, updated bathrooms to meet ADA requirements in building 2 and 7 and new windows and door on the first floor of building 2 to match those that were replaced on the second floor.

UNM-Los Alamos Advisory Board Report | Academic Affairs

Faculty/Staffing Changes:

Our faculty searches are proceeding.

Tenure-track in Art: we have made a verbal offer to our top candidate and that person accepted.

Tenure-track in Mechanical Engineering: we have made a verbal offer to our top candidate and that person accepted.

Tenure-track in Business: the search committee conducted a round of interviews and have identified two finalists. We expect to bring them to campus in the second half of March.

Lecturer in Welding: we do not have any qualified applicants at this time. We have extended the deadline. Our request to the Office of Academic Affairs to be able to offer a higher salary was approved.

Curriculum and Assessment

- Student Affairs and Academic Affairs have been discussing how to strengthen and enlarge our internship program. As a step forward in these efforts, we are adding a new course to UNM-LA: UNIV201: Topics in Career Exploration.
- We put together a full year class schedule and met with Student Affairs personnel to refine that.

Partnerships and Initiatives

- We submitted a proposal to participate in LANL's Data Sprint this summer. We have passed the first round of review and are scheduling our interview with the Data Sprint team at LANL.
- We put together a roster of fall courses that are good Dual Credit course options and then were able to get Los Alamos High School to embed a link to that in their course planner for this fall. We hope this increases our DC enrollments.
- We are altering our annual review processes for lecturers. Rather than reviewing them on a calendar year basis, we are moving those to the academic year schedule.
- Effective this summer, we will be utilizing the central campus bookstore instead of our previous vendor.
- We had a good cohort meeting between our Mechanical Engineering majors and LANL personnel. At the meeting, LANL personnel briefed the students on scholarship and internship opportunities.

UNM-Los Alamos Advisory Board Report | Student Affairs Report

Enrollment Update

Our official Census numbers for Spring 2026 are as follows: Our total Headcount (HC) is 1,226, up 28.24% from Spring 2025; Student Credit Hours (SCH) is 4,882, up 19.98% from Spr 25, our branch-only HC is 422, only 2.99% below Spr 25 numbers.

Complete College America Updates

In February, we began our Pathways Technical Assistance Program through Complete College America. Brittany Carpenter, our Internship Coordinator, is serving as the Team Lead for the project. Brent Pickett, Dean of Instruction, and I are also members of the *Accelerator Cohort: Embedding Career Engagement Throughout Student Pathways* team.

This program is guided by CCRPL@PittEducation (CCRPL) and is designed to help institutions embed career exploration and counseling throughout the student experience—from entry through completion—so that students better understand the labor market value of their educational choices.

As reported during the January Advisory Board meeting, these Community of Practice meetings and check-in sessions will support institutions in developing actionable campus implementation plans that incorporate the following:

- Establishing a Vision and Foundation for Career-Connected Pathways
- Implementing Career-Engaged Student Supports
- Bridging Academic Pathways and Careers

EdSights

We officially launched EdSights on Thursday, February 12. As a reminder, EdSights is an education technology company that helps colleges and universities improve student success and retention through AI-powered, text-based communication and support.

At a future date, we will provide additional information, including opt-in rates, communication metrics, and overall student feedback.

Dual Credit Information Sessions

A new initiative led by Ingrid Goldsmith, our Senior Student Enrollment Associate, and supported by the Student Services team, has been launched to provide information and answer questions about dual credit opportunities for parents and high school students.

Two successful Dual Credit Information Sessions have already taken place at Los Alamos High School. Additional sessions are being planned, with the goal of expanding this effort to other partnering schools.