



Facilities and Services

FACILITIES AND SERVICES SOMETIMES MONDAY MORNING MEMO

I am sure you saw the President's activity report yesterday with the comment, *"The Regents rejected our request for a 4.1% blended tuition and fee request. Thanks to Angela for making a very good presentation and for her team in putting together the NMSU budget. I am concerned this action will lead to layoffs, after we collectively and carefully consider our mission and programs."*

Yvonne pulled the Facilities and Services (FS) vacant position report yesterday, and at this time FS has about \$700,000 in salaries in vacant positions. I am confident that we will be asked to make that 5% budget cut that we anticipated, but at this time I also believe that we are holding enough vacant positions to cover any request for reductions.

I hope I speak for everyone when I say that losing a vacant position is not nearly as bad as losing one with a person in it. If you feel differently, please see me. I can help you change your mind.

As I said about this time last year, this is the new normal and will be for a while.

I also want to talk about something else: one thing that tight budgets do for you is to make you realize what your priorities are. If our enrollment and retention is the most important thing right now – and I hope you agree that it is – then you have to consider where we fit in with that.

Keeping the grounds attractive certainly is important; services of all kinds to the residents are a high priority; and the appearances and functionality of the academic facilities is a key goal.

On the other hand, I was telling Alton yesterday that the man that trained me in 1972 divided our work orders into two piles: one stack was the work orders from the students and the other had the work orders from the staff.

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When I asked him why he did it that way, he said that one pile was “those who pay to be here” and the other was “those who are paid to be here”. We took care of the paying customers first. We can ask ourselves if an office at 78 degrees is a high priority.

I also hope that each of you will have discussions in your shops and units about “customer service,” as it seems that a few of you may think that letting the customer know how shorthanded we are helps.

NEWSFLASH: Everyone on campus faces the same budget challenge. When we do that, we’re just complaining like everyone else. And guess what? It isn’t going to change.

Facilities staff are already well thought of, I would like to see us continue to be the ones who bring solutions. We won’t be able to get any more money or more people, but we can certainly still meet with building representatives, lab managers, RAs, and project customers and ask them how we can improve our services. They’ll be glad to tell you where their priorities are.

For us, please ask yourselves the same thing. For example, I would rather keep professional development and training instead of trucks. I would prefer to give up a vacant position than to lay someone off.

I didn’t get everything done yesterday that I needed to, either, but I did finish the important things and left others until today. When I got home, there was a wife who cared about me, food in the refrigerator, and dog that greeted me with tail wagging. That’s what’s really important.

(PS – REMEMBER BUEN EDUCADO)

Hang in there – NMSU is still a great place to work, and YOU make a difference!

Glen

**OUR MISSION IS TO EFFICIENTLY PROVIDE A SAFE, WELL MAINTAINED, AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY...
...AND IT TAKES EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU.**

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