



PRESS RELEASE

From: The NMSU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (NMSU-AAUP)

About: Forum on NMSU's Financial Health: 2010 and Beyond

April 11, 2010

Dr. Howard Bunsis, JD, CPA, an institutional finance expert, gave the keynote presentation at the FORUM on "Financial Health of NMSU: 2001 and Beyond," on April 9.

The forum was well attended by the media, students, faculty, and administrators. Dr. Bunsis presented compelling data that show NMSU to be in excellent financial health. So healthy that there are no apparent reasons for the tuition increases or cutbacks to instruction of the last several years—much less for the 8% tuition increase and the 2-10% cutbacks in instruction mandated by the Regents for this year.

According to NMSU-AAUP chapter chair, David Boje, 'Dr. Bunsis demonstrated that department and college budgets are already cut to the bone, and that further cuts would

negatively affect enrollment in the fall and subsequent semesters.' Bunsis showed how tuition raises and cuts to instruction can be avoided by looking at the total budget picture, cutting expenses that do not compromise instruction or research, which are the core missions of the university, and using funds from NMSU's unusually large unrestricted reserve funds of more than \$100 Million.

Education is a proven investment in the future for any state or university. Dr. Bunsis's presentation showed compellingly that in New Mexico we can fully fund higher education to meet the challenges of the present and future by protecting the university's key missions of instruction and research, and do this by compensating for the reduction in state funding with existing NMSU resources.

For more information, go to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7zWeT8VESz8> to watch a video of Dr. Bunsis' presentation; go to <http://nmsuaaup.org> to view the slides from Dr. Bunsis' presentation.

Please fill out 7-question Survey on Howard Bunsis FORUM and ideas for Budget Cuts and Transparency at NMSU; go to <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/YPM63CM> - This is second of 2 surveys. These ideas will be given to NMSU Budget Committee and to Regents at May 7th Meeting open comment section.

April 30th Friday 3-5PM Gary Rhoades event. [Please print and distribute flyer for this event.](#) Available at <http://nmsuaaup.org> And RSVP to aaup@nmsuaaup.org for reserved seating.

Contact information for this press release: David M. Boje 575-532-1693; info@nmsuaaup.org; See <http://nmsuaaup.org> for more details.