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**Subject:**

Passing along a piece from today's Daily Iowan – Michael

## **N.M. faculty back Hay**

**Matt Nelson - The Daily Iowan**

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In a review of presidential candidates for the University of New Mexico, faculty members bestowed a unanimous vote of confidence on UI Vice President for Research Meredith Hay.

Hay, who had been one of five candidates for the job, now faces only Robert McGrath of Ohio State University for the chief spot at the university, which is held by interim President David Harris.

New Mexico faculty members responded positively to Hay's visit to their campus in Albuquerque last week.

"She came across very well in the faculty forum," said Beverly Burris, a New Mexico sociology professor present at the unanimous vote on Tuesday. "People were impressed with her. She engaged well with faculty."

The faculty members have sent their endorsement to the New Mexico state Board of Regents, which aims to consider the faculty's opinion and select a candidate by Feb. 23.

Louis Caldera was the previous president of the University of New Mexico, but resigned in January 2006.

"I would say that I'm humbled at the support of the faculty at the University of New Mexico, and [it] is a fantastic university with a great future," Hay said Wednesday night.

The faculty at New Mexico had reviewed five candidates in their search for a replacement for Caldera but rejected three of the five, leaving only McGrath and Hay. None of the three other candidates secured more than half of the 66 faculty votes at the review.

"The best way to try to predict success is to look at someone's track record," said Julia Fulghum, a member of the New Mexico presidential-search committee. "[Hay's] had a lot of success at the University of Iowa."

The vice president has been with the UI for a year and a half; she was backed for the vice-presidential position by a UI panel of students and faculty under former UI President David Skorton's tenure.

If she were to become the New Mexico school's leader, Hay would become part of a recent exodus of UI administrators to other institutions. Skorton left the UI in June 2006 to take the helm at Cornell University in Ithaca, N.Y., and Linda Everett, the senior associate director of the UI Hospitals and Clinics, plans to depart for the executive vice presidency in the nursing department in Indianapolis.

In addition, current UI Provost Michael Hogan, who was among the four original finalists for the UI presidency in November, was named one of two top candidates for the University of Delaware presidency last fall.

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