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Paydirt

The SGA Media Office
p. 7/8

Get Pumped
September 14th, 2020



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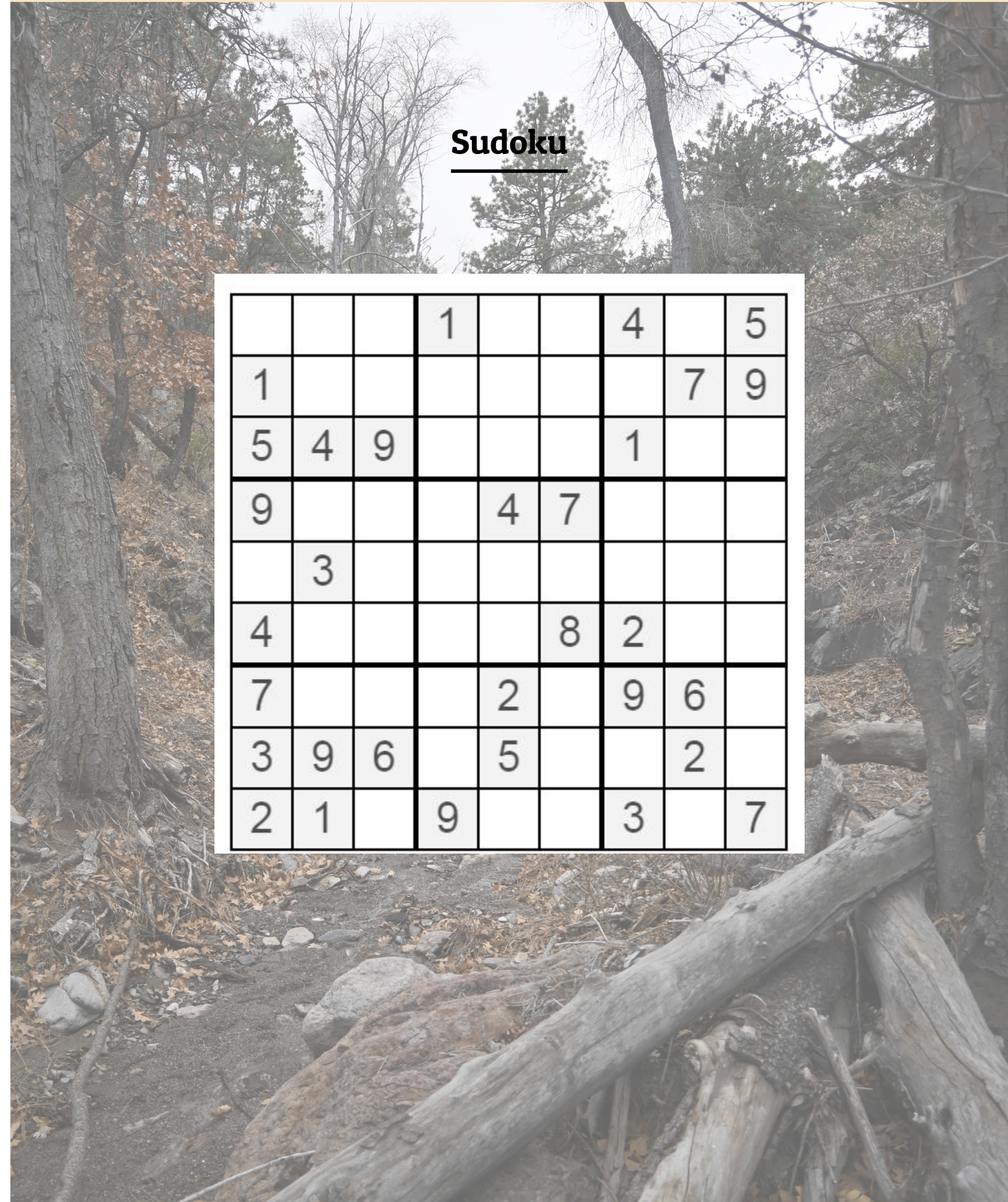


Relax and Unwind

"The best way to cheer yourself up is to try to cheer somebody else up." -Mark Twain

Sudoku

			1			4		5
1							7	9
5	4	9				1		
9				4	7			
	3							
4					8	2		
7				2		9	6	
3	9	6		5			2	
2	1		9			3		7



Labor Day

So, apparently, Labor Day isn't just another day off from school. But if it isn't just another reason to procrastinate in your classes for a little longer, then what is it actually celebrating? Labor Day is the first Monday of every September, celebrating the laborers of America who effectively have become the backbone of our society. It's easy to forget that there are jobs outside of STEM and research when our NMT lives are so consumed with school, but everyday we rely on laborers around the country to uphold our idea of a "normal" life; grocery store workers, custodians, farm workers, fast food employees, and so many more.

Labor Day officially became a holiday in 1894 but the tradition started 12 years before in 1882. The industrial revolution was a major turning point in the advancement of machinery and efficiency of factories and mills, a time that many engineers even hold

in high regard for the evolution of mechanics. But, for the laborers of the Industrial Revolution, it was one of the most dangerous and hazardous times to work. Between the combination of extremely unsafe working conditions and long hours, many laborers became sick or lost their life due to their jobs. Even children as young as five or six were working in these harsh conditions for mere pennies a day. The lives of the laborers were often disregarded and forgotten as they were poor, with little education and often immigrants. The growth of unions, in order to protect America's working class, often found that strikes and less peaceful methods of protest were the only way to find change in the system. On September 5, 1882 10,000 laborers marched from City Hall to Union Square in New York City. This march was held to show appreciation for their work and dedication to the American populace. It was later signed into law

by President Cleveland, that a day a year would be set aside to esteem the working person of America.

Now, Labor Day holds a little less political significance, being celebrated with block parties, picnics and parades. Even more so, people see the holiday as the final hurrah of Summer, their last chance at a little bit of freedom before buckling down once more for work or school. Some might view this shift of the holiday's focus as a negative, but considering America's trend to long work hours during long work weeks with fewer and fewer vacations, sometimes an extra day to let loose isn't a bad thing.

This Labor Day, take some time to appreciate the workers that make your life a little easier, and then go back to procrastinating before the semester really starts to pick up.

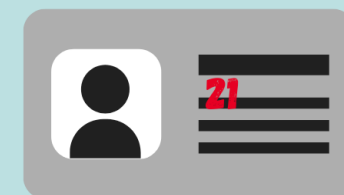
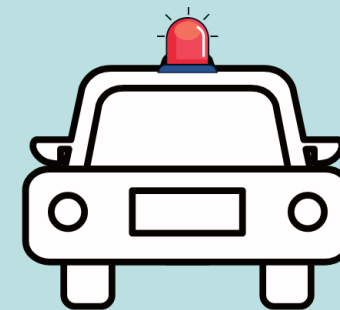
-Alexandra Sartori



SGA Meeting Rundown: 9/08/20

1. We are hiring a journalist! Email paydirt@npe.nmt.edu for more info.
2. Meetings are now in the Macey Auditorium. The SGA is also hiring a Governmental Affairs Officer. Contact sga.president@npe.nmt.edu for more info.
3. Student Affairs is offering to help pay for events hosted by clubs in an effort to increase the number of activities on-campus and online.
4. NMT is looking for volunteers to take COVID tests on-campus in an effort to test 25% of the campus population every month. Head into the health office for more info.
5. Due date for club packets has been moved to September 18th.
6. The SGA is looking for Justices to fill the Supreme Court. Keep an eye out for emails regarding how to apply. The SGA currently has meetings in person in Workman 101.
7. The Student Activities Director is looking for an Ad Chair. Contact him at nmt.sga.sab@gmail.com.
8. The SGA budget was cut about \$10,000, so we will be using money from the Carry Forward budget, which is an emergency budget designed for this purpose.
9. SGA emails are being moved to NMT addresses, including my own. I will respond to the original, but please use paydirt@npe.nmt.edu to contact me.

PARTY PATROLS ARE ACTIVE



As a party host you are held responsible if minors are found drinking by the party patrol. Play it safe and be aware of who is at your party.

Go. See. Do

"The secret of getting ahead is getting started." - Mark Twain

Gym Changes

Still trying to work off your quarantine 15? Us too, but the brand new remodeling of the gym is making it a lot easier. Geyroid Dunbar and the rest of the gym staff spent the Summer remodeling the entire gym and are currently working on a new bouldering room.

It's no secret that exercise is important for the body, but balancing a healthy lifestyle and school can sometimes be difficult. Often, we end up neglecting eating right and exercising for ease of convenience, ensuring a little extra free time between our long study hours. Did you know that students with a GPA of at least 3.5 are more likely to exercise on a regular basis than their lower GPA counterparts? The correlation between exercise and performing well in school is no secret. Exercise is even said to increase brain cell production within the hippocampus. Which for you non-bio majors, the hippocampus controls memory functions, forming, retaining, and recalling information. I'm not sure about you, but recalling information during exams seems to be at least slightly helpful on occasion. Fortunately for us, the new remodeling of the gym is making it easier to find the motivation to work exercising into our routine a little more. It's full revamping has made way for new equipment, bigger areas, and even a new High Performance room.

Highball overhangs and softly cushioned floors are every climber's training dream (or is that just me?). The old climbing room, still fond in our memories, was starting to

trend towards a little sad. Over the Summer, Dunbar was told that the old climbing room could get a little remodeling, and by remodeling they meant a new paint job. Lucky for the NMT climbing community, Dunbar decided that was too boring, instead dedicating a different room to the climbers, tearing off the roof and welding giant soon-to-be bouldering walls. With such a large climbing community within Socorro, most of us prefer to train in Box Canyon or even travel up to Albuquerque for Stoneage. But with the new room having three different walls, angled at 45°, 65°, and 85°, all you'll have to do for training is head over to the gym for a quick session. Currently ahead of schedule on building the room, NMT climbers should be on the lookout for the opening of the bouldering room.

The gym has seen some massive changes over the Summer, so come check them out for yourself. Just make sure to wear your mask!

- Alexandra Sartori



"[This is] what i see it as: keep everybody interacting without 'interacting.' I'm sure I can piece together some scavenger hunts, etc. It will really mitigate the fear of anything bad happening. And then, [the students] can hear about what's going on KTEK, like a clue for the scavenger hunt. It would be only on KTEK, with ads for Paydirt or whatever. Everything just loops back together." The last target on my list was Civil Engineering student Jon Taylor. "I have been doing theater/audio tech for 7 years, live and recorded, [including] 2 years in Macey doing live productions. I was a volunteer under previous SATD Casey Aumack. I saw what a mess the SAC was, and I decided to fix it."

Again, I asked what the main takeaways from combining our various departments were: "Integrating media and student outreach sectors. The improved communication alone will allow us to do things faster, better. The restructuring will allow each department to play to their strengths. I want students to know about everything we do. We work for the students, not the school itself."

Continuing this train of thought, we discussed the KTEK radio: "I wanna get students on the radio. Anything they want on the radio, on the radio. Obviously, we have some guidelines, but most content should have no issues being streamed. We can have cursing, etc., that just has to be late-night."

"A big goal is to have Paydirt use a number of shows regularly scheduled to inform students on what's going on. I want students to know about KTEK and the resources we have available." Providing me with an excellent segway, I then asked about the resources KTEK and the SAC have for students:

"Usually the SAC is host to community classes and events. Currently, the SAC is only internally available to community classes, but equipment is available to all students and clubs. We also have

a recording studio, podcasts, music, available by appointment for students to use, with a trained technician present. Training [itself] is available to all students who reach out."

"We have portable audio and LED lighting systems. We have small and large audio, in specific, including speakers, amplifiers, microphones, etc. We will be posting a full inventory list to students fairly soon. There are forms outside my office, in the SAC. It's located above Chief Scarborough's office. I am going to make sure the form is available online [as well.]"

In regards to the future of the SAC its capabilities, Jon stated that he will be "purchasing an upgrade to the SAC recording studio to record full bands, in house or otherwise." He would also like to "purchase more equipment to make running events outside easier and larger than ever before. Currently we have to rent some equipment from Auxiliary Services to run some events. We at the MO would like to rely on them less."

I originally planned to save this section for my input. However, after conducting interviews with Quincy, Dylan, and Jon, it seems there is not much more I can say. The SGA Media Office is in a fledgling state, but even now there are loads to take advantage of. We can record and play your music, stream your podcasts and ideas onto the radio, and utilize your input to create better events, in-person or online.

Right now, I am committed to getting the word out. Students who don't know about their resources can't use them, even though they are paying good money for them. Contact any of us at the emails below, and maybe we'll see you on-air.

- Skyler Matteson



The SGA Media Office

As mentioned in our previous SGA Rundown, Paydirt, KTEK, the SGA Student Activities Board, and the SAC have combined departments to create an SGA Media Office (MO). Being the Editor-in-Chief of Paydirt, I have intimate knowledge regarding this merging, but I am only a small part of a larger picture.

To get more information, I hunted down and interviewed Jonathan Taylor, Dylan Schroeder, and Quincy Bradfield. Respectively, they are the Student Activities Technical Director, Student Activities Director, and SGA President. All three are new to their positions, but not to their departments.

I started with Quincy. Although not directly involved with the proceedings of the Media Office, he appointed the Executive Board members and his support was crucial in the creation of the unified department. When asked what sold him on the idea, he stated *“a better, more unified advertising and media structure, with better delivery to students. [The departments] have more cooperation, allowing for a broader range of media.”*

As the head for the Executive Board, I asked Quincy what he would like to see from the MO: *“I would like to get student involvement with the radio, to get music and podcasts up [while] hitting a wider range of the student body with our media. [To accomplish this,] we are looking for 5 students to host shows to broaden our creative reach. Each will be paid \$50 for the semester.”*

Aside: This ‘radio committee’ is new in the SGA, designed to run scheduled content on the KTEK radio. As a sort-of ‘content director’ for Paydirt/KTEK, I would choose several modes, such as News, Art, etc, and then the members of the radio committee would work with the technical side of things in the SAC

to produce an hour long or less podcast, each one tackling one of the modes for each weekday in their own voice.

I then talked to Dylan, third year Mechie. He had been Ad Chair for 2 semesters before he took on the SAD position, during which he controlled advertising, posters, social media, logos, awards, and more. I asked Dylan why he, like Quincy, was set on the idea of the MO:

“It’s just more efficient and more integrated with the SGA; it’s a lot better to pool all those resources. Instead of being in our own worlds, we are a lot more cohesive, especially the SATD. It’s going to be so much better; a big ‘corporation’ instead of small pods of people working on their own.” His goals were also similar to Quincy’s: *“[To] get students more involved, not only in the SGA, but to get them more ‘hyped.’ It’s a shame, not that the resources [we have] are wasted, but that they are underutilized.”*

As the organizer of large student events at NMT, I asked Dylan what his plans were for events this year. He described that he was working closely with E-Sports to launch a Minecraft Server, making sure *“it’s something fit for the entire campus, which is a lot harder than [he] thought it would be.”* He also mentioned 49ers, but due to only 10 people being allowed to gather at once, progress is difficult and slow:

“It’s hard to split people up because people come in groups of 4 or 5. People are already not super interested in events, so when we tell them to spread out, they just leave.” This problem regarding student involvement is presing, so I asked Dylan what he thought the MO and KTEK could accomplish to help remedy this:



Fiber Arts Club

Lions, tigers and bears? More like Lion Brand yarn, needles and hooks, oh my! As threatening as that may sound, those are the biggest components of NMT’s Fiber Arts club. Fiber Arts club is yarn-lovers heaven, run by Hannah Morgan-Smith Myers, a Material Engineering major, on campus. The name may sound a little fancy but it’s just a way to say *“...anything related to yarn. So, knitting, crochet, weaving, anything that creates from yarn.”* The club was formed in the Spring Semester of 2020 by Hannah and has been going strong since, accumulating almost 30 members.



Hannah, the head of the club, is a multidisciplinary fiber artist, working with knitting, crocheting, latch hooking, spinning and even dyeing her own yarn. Hannah delved into the world of fiber arts in her early years, learning the art of crochet from her step-mother. Crochet, a French word for “little hook,” is an artform that utilizes a small hook to grab and interlock loops of yarn to form textiles. Knitting being the needle counterpart to crocheting, the needle collects open stitches that will connect to both the previous row and the next row within the work. Despite her wide breadth of knowledge, her favorite is *“...crochet because there are so many other things you can make. Like, I make a lot of cute little stuffed animals. I made a baby Groot once.”* In her years of experience, she’s even graduated past the need for a crochet pattern, which is no small feat, enjoying the art of “winging it” as she goes.

Hannah knew her love for fiber arts had to be shared, so she put together the Fiber Arts club. The meetings are

small get-togethers of yarn-crafting students who want a space to create while socializing with people that have the same love as them. This may sound a little intimidating, like you might need to already know a form of fiber arts to join, which couldn’t be further from the truth. Hannah has implemented a teaching system, where students can be asked to paired with someone that knows a discipline well enough to teach it. The person learning gets one-on-one, tactile experience in learning a new form of fiber arts. The club even conducts material exchanges, making sure no member feels left out. Currently, the club is working to bring their craft online with the meetings being held through Zoom and having a Discord server so members have a constant space to share their love for yarn-crafts. It doesn’t get any more tranquil than getting to create something you love with others that love to create as well. Check out the Fiber Arts club and their meetings every Saturday from 3:00pm-5:00pm.

Fine article, but seems less inspired from your first ones

-Alexandra Sartori



COVID and College

This academic year is unique, for students, faculty, and staff. With so many variables to play with, it is undoubtedly difficult for each of these three groups to figure out how best to respond to the new challenges they now face. But NMT is not the only college campus going through a pandemic. Curious, I did some research regarding COVID concerns and the college experience.

In a survey conducted by Pulse Point on 192 university presidents, 86% reported Enrollment Numbers as one of the most pressing issues regarding COVID. This was the most highly selected out of five total points the presidents could have selected, followed by Financial Concerns at 64% and Online Learning Environment Concerns at 45%. The lowest selected issue was Responding to the Governing Board at 5%. A more in depth graph is shown here.

Several financial actions were then listed to the presidents. 51% had issued housing/meal plan refunds, 54% had froze staff hiring, and 65% had enacted cost-control measures. 87% planned on never declaring financial exigency, and 84% planned on not giving tuition refunds. However, this contrasted with two-year institutions, in which only 56% of presidents said the same.

COVID has heavily affected students as a whole. Student athletes, for example, have been hit hard. According to the National Conference of State Legislators, Division I schools expected almost 600\$ million in June, but due to the cancelation of tournaments, the NCAA reduced their funding by 375\$ million.

On-campus students also face many more problems, including on-campus dining, housing, and work-study. Around 700,000 students depend on work study, at least partially, to pay for school. One response came from Texas Governor Greg Abbott, allowing students to receive funding for the hours they could have worked before the pandemic.

I also looked up Colorado School of Mines and University of New Mexico's COVID responses and statuses, seeing as these colleges are similar and nearby, respectively. UNM has 37 cumulative cases, and CSM, 24. Considering NMT has yet to have a reported case, according to President Wells' email on September 3rd, we have been rather 'lucky,' although that could change in an instant.

All three universities utilize hybrid classes, health screenings, and face coverings. At UNM, new microphones and cameras are being installed in classrooms, highly likely to assist with recordings. Both CSM and UNM do not allow the use of face shields, only masks (as far as their websites indicate).

Overall, many universities are concerned about the same things, and taking similar actions. However, the makeup of their student, faculty, and staff populations can have a large part in COVID cases. For example, Tech is a far smaller school than the other two, in a far smaller town. Tech students already don't go outside, so for once, our socially awkward, Techie nature has proven beneficial.

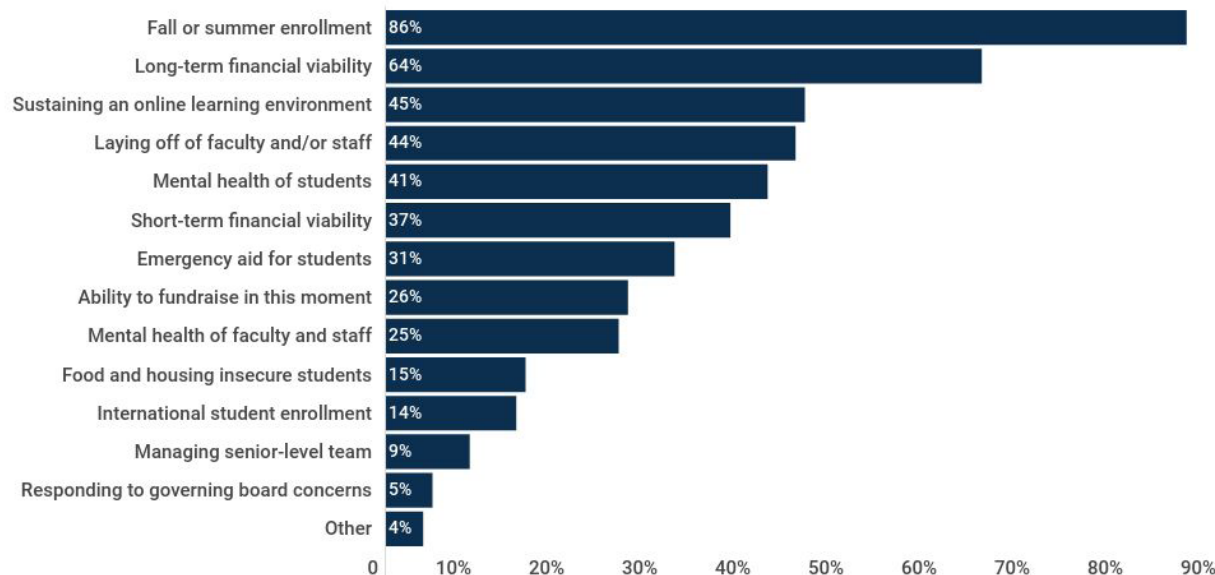
But like I have mentioned before, it can take months to set up regulations and best practices, but that won't matter should the worst come to pass. Please continue to do your best to protect others and yourself, and don't let COVID completely drown out the rest of your life. Should anything big happen regarding COVID/Colleges, I will write another piece, but until then, please read responsibly.

God I love that phrase.

Special thanks to the American Council on Education, the National Conference of State Legislators, UNM, and CSM for providing data and graphs for this article.

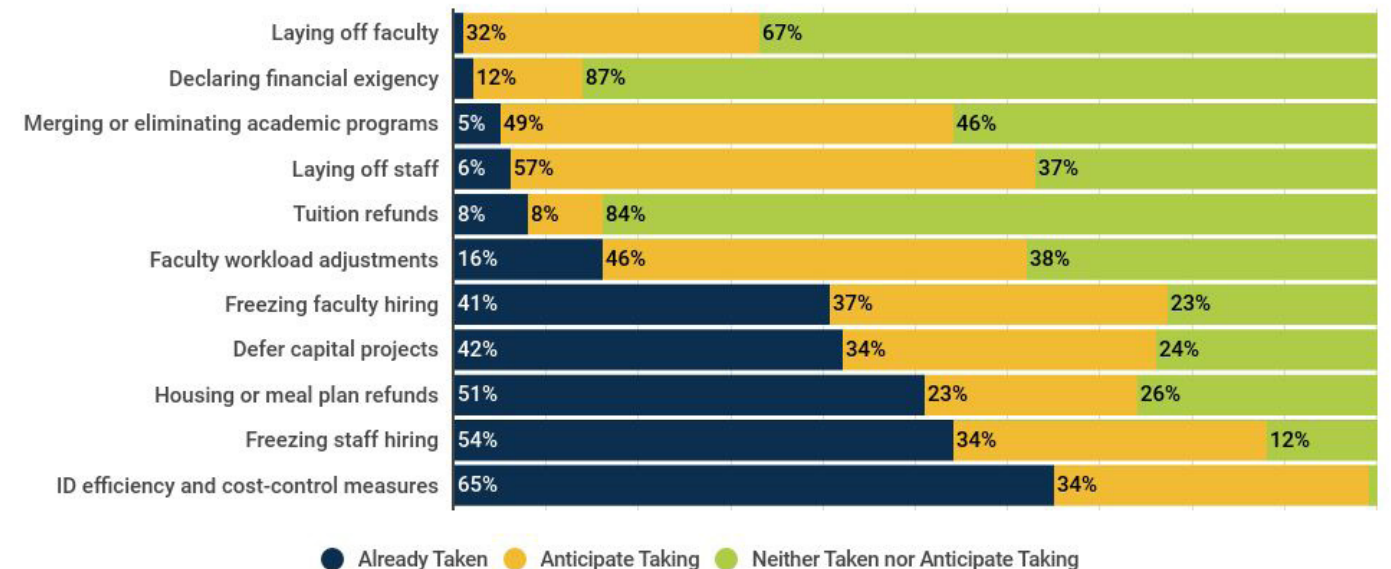
-Skyler Matteson

Most Pressing Issues Facing Presidents Due to COVID-19



Pulse Point Survey of College and University Presidents on COVID-19: April 2020, American Council on Education, 2020.

Financial Actions Taken or Considered by Presidents



Pulse Point Survey of College and University Presidents on COVID-19: April 2020, American Council on Education, 2020.