Abstract
To commemorate 80 years of the autonomy of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México is an opportunity to evoke and to remind the processes to obtain its attribute, to think and to be aware of the current implications. In the first part, some ideas are spilt on the current meaning of the university autonomy and the academic specificity in which it is sustained. Later, a reflection is done on the responsibility and the commitment to the society implicit on the university autonomy; problems and challenges which nowadays are faced. As a conclusion, some of the special features of the university autonomy are placed, in the slope of self-government, a reference is done about the deep meaning of this institution to the society.

Keywords
Autonomy, UNAM, public universities, budget.