

1 **RESOLUTION # XX**

2014 FALL SESSION

3 **Legislative Action:**

4 Introduced by: GPSA Equity and Inclusion Chair Amber Dukes, UNM Queer-Straight Alliance,
5 UNM Residence Hall Association, Senator Walker, Senator Liu, UNM Secular Student Alliance,
6 UNM Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance

9 **Executive Action:**

11 _____
12 GPSA President Date

14 **WHEREAS**, the UNM Women’s Resource Center (WRC) was founded in 1972 by a collective
15 of faculty, graduate students, and community members and continues to educate, support, and
16 provide a safe space for women on campus through cultural and educational programming;¹ and

17 **WHEREAS**, the UNM WRC’s Mission states in part that: “The WRC also seeks to promote
18 understanding and mutual respect among women and men to achieve individual and social
19 change as well as to create a positive campus environment;”² and

20 **WHEREAS**, the UNM WRC has historically provided a variety of services to student, including
21 information about healthy sexuality and healthy relationships; and

22 **WHEREAS**, UNM’s Mission Statement includes, “UNM’s ongoing commitment serves to
23 educate and encourage students to develop the values, habits of mind, knowledge, and skills that
24 they need to be enlightened citizens, contribute to the state and national economies, and lead
25 satisfying lives;”³ and

26 **WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization defines Sexual Health as, “a state of physical,
27 mental and social well-being in relation to sexuality. It requires a positive and respectful
28 approach to sexuality and sexual relationships, as well as the possibility of having pleasurable
29 and safe sexual experiences, free of coercion, discrimination and violence.,”⁴ and

30 **WHEREAS**, courses on topics of human sexuality are offered in several departments on UNM
31 campus, these classes frequently have over 100 students enrolled and are often capped because
32 of high enrollment; some of these classes utilize community members and groups such as the
33 Self-Serve Sexuality Resource Center as a source of information and as guest speakers;⁵ and

34 **WHEREAS**, chartered student organizations such as the Queer-Straight Alliance, Residence
35 Hall Association and others have established a long-standing educational relationship and have
36 utilized Self-Serve Sexuality Resource Center as a valuable source of programming and sexual
37 health information for student-lead events for many years such as Sex with Werewolves, QSA’s

1 <http://women.unm.edu/>

2 <http://women.unm.edu/about-us/index.html>

3 <http://catalog.unm.edu/catalogs/2014-2015/general-information.html>

4 http://www.who.int/topics/sexual_health/en/

5 catalog.unm.edu

38 Annual Drag Show, Sex with Ghosts, Sex with Vampires, QSA’s Annual Spring Performance
39 Festival and others; and

40 **WHEREAS**, other events on this campus aimed at promoting sex education have used
41 “controversial” titles, such as I <3 Female Orgasm, which brought in 750 attendees;⁶ and

42 **WHEREAS**, Yale University held the first Sex Week in 2002, and was followed by Harvard,
43 Brown, and other universities, now including numerous other institutions of higher learning;⁷ and

44 **WHEREAS**, a study found that the addition of “emancipatory sexuality education, which
45 encourages the exploration of women’s own sexual values and desires” to a sexual assault
46 resistance program showed improvements in risk detection; and⁷

47 **WHEREAS**, writer, educator, and activist Jaclyn Friedman is quoted as saying: “These
48 misguided attacks show just how afraid people are of frank, pleasure-centered sex education. But
49 that fear fuels violence. When young people don’t know what safe, pleasurable sex can be like,
50 we leave them vulnerable to predators who will tell them that abuse is normal;”⁸ and

51 **WHEREAS**, a study published in 2013 found that there are gender differences in the expression
52 and interpretation of indicators of consent, which may contribute to acquaintance rape; and⁹

53 **WHEREAS**, group-based comprehensive sexual education has been found to reduce
54 [adolescent] pregnancy, HIV and other STI’s;¹⁰ and

55 **WHEREAS**, a primary prevention program that has been shown to be effective in reducing
56 sexual violence through multiple sessions, and includes information about attitudes, social
57 norms, and healthy relationship skills;¹¹ and

58 **WHEREAS**, an initially positive response from UNM about Sex Week quoted UNM WRC
59 director Summer Little as stating: “Our rationale is that by teaching medically accurate sex
60 education with prevention infused throughout, we will be heard by the folks who need this info
61 the most. Young people are arguably interested in sex and many of them have had limited or no
62 sex education. In teaching them about sex, we can also teach them about healthy relationships
63 and consent;”¹² and

⁶ <http://www.dailylobo.com/article/2014/02/i-3-female-orgasm>

⁷ Senn, C. Y., Gee, S. S., & Thake, J. (2011). Emancipatory Sexuality Education and Sexual Assault Resistance Does the Former Enhance the Latter?. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 35(1), 72-91.

⁸ cited from <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/unm-support-sex-week>

⁹ Jozkowski, K. N., Peterson, Z. D., Sanders, S. A., Dennis, B., & Reece, M. (2013). Gender differences in heterosexual college students' conceptualizations and indicators of sexual consent: Implications for contemporary sexual assault prevention education. *Journal of sex research*, (ahead-of-print), 1-13.

¹⁰ Chin, H. B., Sipe, T. A., Elder, R., Mercer, S. L., Chattopadhyay, S. K., Jacob, V., ... & Santelli, J. (2012). The effectiveness of group-based comprehensive risk-reduction and abstinence education interventions to prevent or reduce the risk of adolescent pregnancy, human immunodeficiency virus, and sexually transmitted infections: two systematic reviews for the Guide to Community Preventive Services. *American journal of preventive medicine*, 42(3), 272-294.

¹¹ <https://www.notalone.gov/assets/evidence-based-strategies-for-the-prevention-of-sv-perpetration.pdf>

¹² <http://news.unm.edu/news/unm-womens-resource-center-hosts-sex-week-presentations>

64 **WHEREAS**, UNM Policy 2220: Freedom of Expression and Dissent states: “As an institution
65 that exists for the express purposes of education, research, and public service, the University is
66 dependent upon the unfettered flow of ideas, not only in the classroom and the laboratory, but
67 also in all University activities. As such, protecting freedom of expression is of central
68 importance to the University. The exchange of diverse viewpoints may expose people to ideas
69 some find offensive, even abhorrent. The way that ideas are expressed may cause discomfort to
70 those who disagree with them. The appropriate response to such speech is expressing opposing
71 ideas and continued dialogue, not curtailment of speech;”¹³ and

72 **WHEREAS**, 40 people complained about the optional workshops being presented, while an
73 overwhelming number of people have signed a petition (over 1,000 as of October 15, 2014) in
74 support of sex week;^{14,15} and

75 **WHEREAS**, in a statement issued October 1, 2014, Student Affairs Vice President Torres
76 stated: “...the initiative did not have clear oversight or close enough supervision to prevent the
77 inclusion of topics that are sensational and controversial. For the UNM apologizes;”¹⁶ and

78 **WHEREAS**, this apology has been interpreted in national media as reactionary and as a
79 withdrawal of support for sex education and the WRC, rather than allowing for the expression of
80 opposing viewpoints;^{17,18} and

81 **WHEREAS**, in an editorial discussing the Sex Week apology written by the editorial board of
82 the Daily Lobo, President Frank was quoted as saying “We’re a university; we’re a place where
83 you should talk about hard ideas.”¹⁹

84 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that GPSA stands with and supports the UNM WRC and
85 their efforts to inform, educate, and empower students at UNM; and

86 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that GPSA supports the UNM WRC and other campus resource
87 centers and campus groups in hosting comprehensive, sex positive, events about a variety of sexual
88 behaviors and lifestyle choices, and we ask that the UNM administration to do the same, financially
89 and in spirit; and

90
91 **FINALLY BE IT RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be sent to Office of the Board of
92 Regents, the Office of the University President, the Office of the Provost, the Office of the Vice
93 President for Student Affairs, the Office of the Dean of Students, the Women’s Resource Center,
94 and the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico.

¹³ <https://pathfinder.unm.edu/common/policies/freedom-of-expression-and-dissent.html>

¹⁴ <http://www.dailylobo.com/article/2014/10/editorial-sex-week>

¹⁵ <http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/unm-support-sex-week>

¹⁶ <http://news.unm.edu/news/unm-statement-regarding-sex-week>

¹⁷ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/03/unm-sex-week-apology_n_5924772.html

¹⁸ <http://www.dailylobo.com/article/2014/10/editorial-sex-week>

¹⁹ <http://www.dailylobo.com/article/2014/10/editorial-sex-week>