

RESOLUTION TO INCREASE GRADUATE AND PROFESSIONAL ASSISTANTSHIP FUNDING AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

WHEREAS the University of New Mexico is labeled a Carnegie I Research institution, or Very High Research Public Doctoral University (RU/VH), requiring a “robust technological infrastructure to support high end research in medicine, engineering and the sciences” and is invested in maintaining the “educational expression of its research identity”¹; and

WHEREAS the University of New Mexico received a 10-year accreditation from the North Central Association of Colleges and Universities in Fall 1999, “which noted the dedicated faculty and staff, enthusiastic students, strong research, and excellent academic programs”, per the University’s Institutional Profile; and

WHEREAS graduate and professional students are an integral part of maintaining the University’s Carnegie I status and accreditation; and

WHEREAS students registered for Master, Special Graduate, Doctoral, Law, MBA, Medical, and GradCert Programs in Spring 2015 totaled 5,858 students, a decline of 6.89% over a five-year period as stated in the Spring 2015 Enrollment Report; and

WHEREAS Teaching Assistantships, Graduate Assistantships, Research Assistantships, and Project Assistantships attract graduate and professional students to the University; and

WHEREAS the University of New Mexico Self-Study 2009 reports “approximately 4000 students hold some form of assistantship each semester”; and

WHEREAS the Graduate Studies website states “Approximately 1,500 teaching and research assistantships are available to qualified graduate students in various departments within the university”, which is well short of the 5,858 qualified graduate students currently registered, and far less than the available assistantships reported in 2009; and

WHEREAS individual departments are charged with creating and sustaining these assistantships with “soft money”, or those funds not guaranteed through the State of New Mexico; and

WHEREAS the average aid award is \$15,000 per recipient, 40.9% of graduate students are receiving that aid through loans which must be paid back, 29.4% of graduate students receive no aid at all², and the average Cost of Attendance for resident graduate students is \$14,968/yr³; and

THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED the Graduate Student Council of the University of New Mexico, as representatives of the graduate and professional study body, requests the University recognize the importance of assistantships in supporting graduate student success; and

¹ Source: UNM Self Study 2009, <http://accreditation.unm.edu/>

² Source: Performance Effectiveness Plan of New Mexico’s Public Universities, 2014, <http://www.unm.edu/~cup/Reports.htm>

³ Source: UNM Office of Admissions, http://admissions.unm.edu/costs_financial_aid/costofattendance.html#

THEREFORE MAY IT BE RESOLVED the Graduate Student Council of the University of New Mexico, as representatives of the graduate and professional student body, requests the University recognize the importance of graduate students as researchers, supporting the above mentioned Carnegie RU/VH status; and

THEREFORE MAY IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED the Graduate Student Council of the University of New Mexico, as representatives of the graduate and professional student body, requests assistantship funding be prioritized and increased, stimulating growth of applications and departmental acceptance of new graduate and professional students; and

THEREFORE MAY IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED that this resolution to increase assistantship funding and support of graduate and professional students be distributed to the Board of Regents, the Offices of the President, the Provost, and Dean of Graduate Studies, as well as the Dean's Council, Faculty Senate, Budget Leadership Team, the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico, and the Daily Lobo.