

UNM the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) Resolution Requesting
Institutional Support of the Graduate Resource Center

WHEREAS, the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA)¹ is the recognized graduate and professional student government at the University of New Mexico (UNM) with a mission to enhance the academic and intellectual environment for the graduate and professional students at UNM and to “promote the rights, interests and professional development of graduate and professional students within the university community, through advocacy, education, and financial support”; and

WHEREAS, in July 2010, the University of New Mexico was granted a total of \$2.4 million by the U.S. Department of Education to implement a five-year project toward establishing a Graduate Resource Center at the University of New Mexico with the intent of institutionalizing its operations under the direction Graduate Studies and the Office of the Provost;

WHEREAS, the Graduate Resource Center (GRC)² at the University of New Mexico has successfully established itself as a keystone in Graduate Studies by offering a wide array of unique, free academic support services to all graduate and professional students, in collaboration with several departments and programs, including: one-on-one writing and statistics consultations, writing support groups, writing camps, academic and professional development workshops, fellowship programs, an annual university-wide student conference, one-on-one guidance in planning for graduate school, and fall/spring graduate student orientations; and

WHEREAS, the GRC’s services have had a major impact on graduation of master’s and doctoral students at UNM considering that 45% of all graduates who submitted a thesis or dissertation between Fall 2010 and Summer 2014 had received assistance from the GRC; and

WHEREAS, the University of New Mexico was proclaimed “king of the graduate schools” by Hispanic Business magazine and its online version in their list for the 2014 Best Schools for Hispanics³ rankings; further stating that “UNM is the only school to reach the top 10 lists in all four disciplines”; and

WHEREAS, the GRC is the only entity at UNM that provides free writing assistance to international students who are enrolled in graduate programs; and

WHEREAS, the GRC is the only entity at UNM that serves as a central information hub for prospective students to get the guidance, advice and motivation they need to pursue their degrees in masters or doctoral programs by providing workshops and one-on-one guidance in planning for graduate school; and general resources in planning for and getting into graduate school; and

¹ Source: <http://gpsa.unm.edu/index.html>

² Source: <http://unmgrc.unm.edu/>

³ Source: Bush, M. (Saturday, August 23) Albuquerque Journal. Retrieved from:
<http://www.abqjournal.com/450838/news/unm-king-of-graduate-schools-for-hispanics.html>

WHEREAS, the GRC continuously collaborates with the Office of the Vice President for Research, the UNM Division of Student Affairs, the UNM Division for Equity & Inclusion, the Office of the Provost, Graduate Studies, the Dean of Students, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Global Education Office, Career Services, the Bilinski Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy, GPSA, the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico (ASUNM), African American Student Services, American Indian Student Services, the Men of Color Alliance, the Men of Color Initiative, STEM Gateway, STEM UP, the STEM Collaborative Center, the Raza Graduate Student Association, the Unidos Project, ENLACE New Mexico, the LGBTQ Resource Center, the Project for the New Mexico Graduates of Color (PNMGC), and so many other partners throughout each year to provide a variety of collaborative initiatives that advance graduate student success; and

WHEREAS, as Graduate Studies⁴ promotes the success of graduate students and graduate programs by providing broad oversight of program quality, managing academic policies, and administering financial support; and

WHEREAS, Graduate Studies collaborates with UNM administrators, faculty, graduate students, and staff to promote the completion of degrees, to encourage best practices in graduate education, and to diversify access to graduate education; and

WHEREAS, Graduate Studies also provides administrative and financial support for the GRC, PNMGC, and the Teaching Assistant Resource Center; and

WHEREAS, Graduate Studies coordinates with graduate student organizations to ensure that graduate students have a voice in the services provided to programs and students; and

WHEREAS, the five-year U.S. Department of Education's Title V Grant Promoting Post-baccalaureate Opportunities for Hispanic Americans (PPOHA) that has been funding the GRC operations will be ending on September 30, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the Student Fee Review Board (SFRB) has recommended \$127,000 in student fees to go toward supporting the ongoing operations of the GRC; and

WHEREAS, Graduate Studies has requested \$100,000 to continue the operations of the GRC.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that GPSA calls on the UNM administration to provide UNM graduate and professional students with the resources to succeed academically and complete their degrees.

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that GPSA Council supports the GRC and calls on the UNM administration to ensure that funding for this program is secured in these times of financial uncertainty; and

⁴ Source: <http://grad.unm.edu/home/>

THEREFORE, BE IT ALSO RESOLVED that GPSA strongly supports the UNM Board of Regents in allocating funds from the Instruction and General Fund, which makes up the primary part of the UNM Budget to secure vital academic services GRC programming for years to come.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that GPSA calls on the UNM President and other UNM officials to stand with the GRC to ensure funding for the vital services the GRC provides to graduate and professional students and undergraduate students considering graduate and professional school; and

NOW, THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that GPSA stands with and supports the UNM GRC and will forward a copy of this resolution to the President of the University of New Mexico, the Office of the Provost of the University of New Mexico, the Vice President of Student Affairs, the UNM Dean of Students Office, the Office of Graduate Studies, the Graduate Resource Center and the UNM Board of Regents.