

LEGISLATIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

RESOLUTION # 1S

2025 SPRING SESSION

Legislative Action:

Introduced by: Michel Rivera Ramirez (GPSA President)

1st Reading: **LSC Chair**

Referred To:

2nd Reading:

Committee Action:

3rd Reading:

Council Action:

Executive Action:

GPSA President

Date

WHEREAS, the Graduate and Professional Student Association (GPSA) of the University of New Mexico (UNM) is the representative body of the graduate and professional students at UNM; and

WHEREAS, GPSA serves graduate students at UNM from different and diverse backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, the total student body headcount for all of UNM's campuses is 25,948 as of the Spring 2025 semester¹; and

WHEREAS, the number of graduate students UNM serves is about 5,489 as of the Spring 2025 semester²; and

WHEREAS, the number of Hispanic students UNM serves is 11,847 as of the Spring 2025 semester³; and

WHEREAS, the number of International students UNM serves is 1,088 as of the Spring 2025 semester⁴; and

WHEREAS, the number of students identifying as American Indian that UNM

¹ UNM Office of Institutional Analytics. (2025). *University of New Mexico Official Enrollment Report (Spring Semester, 2025)*. University of New Mexico. <https://oia.unm.edu/facts-and-figures/official-enrollment-reports.html>.

² *Id.*

³ *Id.*

⁴ *Id.*

33 serves is 2,322 as of the Spring 2025 semester⁵; and

34 WHEREAS, the number of Black/African American students UNM serves is 652⁶;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, the number of Asian students UNM serves is 980⁷; and

37 WHEREAS, the number of students who identify as two or more ethnicities/races
38 that UNM serves is 963⁸; and

39 WHEREAS, on January 21, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order
40 titled “Ending Illegal Discrimination and Restoring Merit-Based Opportunity”
41 (EO 14173) with the aim of ending so-called “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion”
42 (“DEI”) policies within, amongst other places, higher education⁹; and

43 WHEREAS, EO 14173 instructs US federal agencies to investigate and “combat”
44 these DEI programs¹⁰; and

45 WHEREAS, EO 14173 instructs the Secretary of Education to issue guidance to
46 state educational agencies who receive educational funds, grants, or participate in
47 the federal student loan assistance program to “comply” with their established
48 measures and practices under the relevant statutes and case law¹¹; and

49 WHEREAS, the Department of Education issued guidance, popularly known as
50 the “Dear Colleague” letter, suggesting that the Supreme Court Decision in
51 *Students for Fair Admissions (SFFA) v. Harvard*, where the use of race in school
52 admissions was held to be unlawful, is also applicable in other settings, such as in
53 diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts undertaken by colleges and universities¹²;
54 and

55 WHEREAS, the Department of Education has threatened institutions with loss of
56 funding for failure to comply with the issued guidance; and

57 WHEREAS, EO 14173 requires such institutions receiving funds to certify not to
58 operate programs that promote DEI; and

59 WHEREAS, The US District Court for the District of Maryland granted a
60 preliminary injunction against EO 14173, alongside the similar Executive Order
61 14151, because the order’s use of words and phrases like “DEI,” “equity-related,”

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ Exec. Order No. 14,173, 90 F.R. 8633 (2025). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/31/2025-02097/ending-illegal-discrimination-and-restoring-merit-based-opportunity>.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² “Dear Colleague Letter”, Trainor, C.; The U.S. Department of Education. (2025, February 14). www.ed.gov/media/document/dear-colleague-letter-sffa-v-harvard-109506.pdf.

62 “illegal discrimination or preferences,” and “diversity” to reference now-banned
 63 policies are too vague; and

64 WHEREAS, The Federal Appeals Court for the Fourth Circuit lifted the injunction
 65 pending appeal, but only on the basis that the injunction was improper and not on
 66 the basis that the Executive Order is lawful; and

67 WHEREAS, on January 20, 2025, President Trump also issued an Executive
 68 Order titled “Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other
 69 National Security and Public Safety Threats” (EO 14161), which calls for tighter
 70 checks on visa applications for any sign of “hostile attitudes towards its [the
 71 United States’] citizens, culture, government, institutions, or founding
 72 principles...”¹³; and

73 WHEREAS, the Trump administration has targeted and revoked the visas of
 74 international students across the country for minor infractions that in no way call
 75 into question their “attitude” towards the United States or its people and
 76 institutions¹⁴; and

77 WHEREAS, at New Mexico State University, nine students have had their student
 78 visas revoked as of April 12, 2025¹⁵; and

79 WHEREAS, at New Mexico Tech, one student has had their student visa revoked
 80 as of April 9, 2025¹⁶

81 WHEREAS, at UNM, an unspecified number of students have had their student
 82 visas revoked as of April 9, 2025¹⁷; and

83 WHEREAS, the Trump administration has increased efforts to deport and detain
 84 undocumented immigrants in the United States¹⁸; and

85 WHEREAS, UNM has purported to be a university that provides a “safe
 86 environment and supportive community...” to undocumented students¹⁹; and

¹³ Exec. Order No. 14,161, 90 F.R. 8451 (2025). <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2025/01/30/2025-02009/protecting-the-united-states-from-foreign-terrorists-and-other-national-security-and-public-safety>.

¹⁴ Alcala, N., & D’Amassa, A. (2025, April 9). International students at these New Mexico universities have had their visas revoked. *Albuquerque Journal*. https://www.abqjournal.com/news/article_7290d284-20b8-4c37-bb31-e9679217a76b.html.

¹⁵ Brown, S. (Director). (2025, April 12). 3 more NMSU international students visas revoked [Broadcast]. In *KRQE News*. CBS Broadcasting. <https://www.krqe.com/news/education/3-more-nmsu-international-students-visas-revoked/>

¹⁶ Alcala, N., & D’Amassa, A. (2025, April 9). International students at these New Mexico universities have had their visas revoked. *Albuquerque Journal*.

¹⁷ *Id.*

¹⁸ Roy, D. (2025, April 13). Where Trump’s deportations are sending migrants. *Public Broadcasting Service (PBS)*. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/where-trumps-deportations-are-sending-migrants>

¹⁹ *Campus Climate*. (N.D.). The University of New Mexico. Retrieved April 9, 2025, from <https://campusclimate.unm.edu/undocumented/index.html>.

87 WHEREAS, UNM serves a sizable undocumented community through providing
88 higher education and other services such as healthcare and employment; and

89 WHEREAS, UNM advances through the work of international students, especially
90 graduate teaching and research assistants; and

91 WHEREAS, UNM is one of 600 schools to be a Hispanic Serving Institution
92 (HSI)²⁰; and

93 WHEREAS, the title of HSI comes with the responsibility of serving Hispanic
94 students, which is a “diverse” group within the United States; and

95 WHEREAS, the Hispanic population also includes undocumented immigrants;
96 and

97 WHEREAS, Goal Three of UNM’s 2040 Strategic Framework is to strive for
98 “Inclusive Excellence” by “Utilize[ing] an equity and inclusion lens to expand
99 opportunity...” and through strengthening UNM’s equity and inclusion
100 infrastructure²¹; and

101 WHEREAS, as part of strengthening UNM’s equity and inclusion infrastructure,
102 involves standing up against efforts which aim to dismantle said efforts; and

103 WHEREAS, Goal One of UNM 2040 is to Advance New Mexico through
104 “Understand[ing] the needs and unique opportunities of our distinct New Mexican
105 cultures...”²²; and

106 WHEREAS, in understanding the needs and unique opportunities of New
107 Mexico’s distinct cultures, institutions have to stand against attacks on diversity,
108 equity, and inclusion efforts; and

109 WHEREAS, UNM is considering revising its policies, especially around equal
110 opportunity and prohibited discrimination as it applies to its educational and work
111 environments²³;

112 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that GPSA condemns the Trump
113 administration’s efforts to eliminate programs aimed at increasing diversity,
114 equity, and inclusion at institutions of higher education and elsewhere in American
115 society; and

²⁰ *El Centro de la Raza and Campus Partners hosting expert on transforming Hispanic-Serving Institutions*. (2024, September 22). The University of New Mexico. Retrieved April 14, 2025, from <https://news.unm.edu/news/el-centro-de-la-raza-and-campus-partners-hosting-expert-on-transforming-hispanic-serving-institutions>.

²¹ *UNM 2040 Opportunity Defined*. (N.D.). The University of New Mexico. Retrieved April 14, 2025, from <https://opportunity.unm.edu/goals/index.html>.

²² *Id.*

²³ The University of New Mexico. (2025, April 10). *Draft Policy 2720: Equal Opportunity and Prohibited Discrimination (Interim)*. <https://policy.unm.edu/common/documents/under-review/spring-2025/uap-2720-redline-v2.pdf>.

116 **THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that GPSA condemns the**
117 **Trump administration’s efforts to revoke the student visas of international students**
118 **at UNM who have not committed any major infraction which warrant revocation;**
119 **and**

120 **THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that GPSA stands in support**
121 **of undocumented students at UNM who have not committed any major infractions**
122 **which warrant deportation and for them to be free from fear of deportation and to**
123 **be free to pursue their education; and**

124 **THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that GPSA supports**
125 **international students at UNM in completing their studies without fear having their**
126 **student visas being revoked without just cause; and**

127 **THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that GPSA calls upon UNM,**
128 **as part of UNM 2040, to assert its interest in upholding diversity, equity, and**
129 **inclusion initiatives aimed at furthering UNM’s goal of having a diverse student**
130 **body, faculty, and staff; and**

131 **THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that GPSA calls upon UNM to protect all**
132 **students, especially undocumented students and international students, from having their due**
133 **process rights from being curtailed by the federal government.**