



UNM

GPSA

Graduate & Professional Student Association

Joint Resolution 1F

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

WHEREAS, UNM main campus graduate estimated 2021-2022 cost of attendance, excluding tuition, for living On/Off-Campus is \$18,731¹; and

WHEREAS, during the Fall and Spring semesters the typical workload for assistantships is 20 hours per week (50% FTE). A student may not be appointed for more than 30 hours per week or 75% FTE as a TA/TA Spec, GA/GA Spec, TAssoc, RA or PA alone or in any combination²; and

WHEREAS, the minimum pay for UNM graduate workers at 50% FTE is \$13,231 over 10 months.²

WHEREAS, UNM has claimed that or the Fall, 2019 semester, the average 50% FTE salary for all teaching and graduate assistants was \$19,561 and claimed that the average 50% FTE salary for all research assistants was \$22,292, both over 10 months²; and

WHEREAS, during bargaining, UNM attorneys legally obligated to be forthright in their presentation provided data on pay indicating that the mean 50% FTE salary for all TA/GA contracts was \$16,297 over 10 months²: and

WHEREAS, there is no guarantee of pay over the summer months, leaving many students without income for 1/6th of every year; and

WHEREAS, the University of New Mexico is a Hispanic Serving Institution, Minority Institution, and Minority Serving Institution, with graduate student population demographics consisting of 41.4% White, 31.2% Hispanic, 11.0% International, 4.6% Asian, 4.3% American

¹ <http://finaid.unm.edu/coa/21-22/>

² <https://grad.unm.edu/funding/assistantships.html>

Indian, 2.6% two or more races, 2.6% unknown, 2.1% Black or African American, 0.2% Native Hawaiian³; and

WHEREAS, 2022-2023 UNM student health plan premium rates are as follows, for all MD, Pharm D and Physician Assistant Students pay a \$3,518.76 premium per individual student. The addition of a spouse or dependent results in an additional \$3,518.76 per person⁴; and

WHEREAS, 2022-2023 UNM student health plan premium rates are as follows, Graduate Assistants, GA Fellows, and Medical Health Professionals are \$3,518.76, with an additional \$3,518.76 for the addition of each individual covered individual on the plan, be they spouse or dependent⁴; and

WHEREAS, title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (“Title IX”) prohibits sex discrimination at educational institutions, including sexual harassment or any other form of discrimination based on sex, but no other protected class. Furthermore, Title IX prohibits retaliation against any individual for exercise of their rights under Title IX⁵; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico State Grad Workers United is also actively bargaining with New Mexico State University for tuition coverage, salary increase, international health insurance fee, and paid leave⁶; and

THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that UNM’s GPSA supports of the United Grad Workers of UNM and the New Mexico State Grad Workers in their pursuit of livable wages, affordable health insurance, and non-discrimination clauses.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that UNM is a minority serving institution, where minorities are at a heightened risk of living at or below the poverty line.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the UNM GPSA advises that the UNM Administration increase the stipend for graduate workers working 50% FTE to at least \$18,731, which would only cover the non-tuition costs of attending UNM.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the UNM GPSA advises that the UNM Administration provide more affordable health care to grad students, their spouses, and dependents.

³ <https://oia.unm.edu/facts-and-figures/graduate-studies-dashboard.html>

⁴ <https://hr.unm.edu/docs/benefits/student-health-plan-rates-2022-2023.pdf>

⁵ <http://oeo.unm.edu/title-ix/pdf/2020titleixregs.pdf>

⁶ <https://nmsugrads.ueunion.org/bargaining-updates/>

THEREFORE LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, the UNM GPSA advises that the UNM Administration implement a non-discrimination clause that protects against discrimination regarding sex, race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, nationality, and religion, and goes beyond existing protections under Title IX.

THEREFORE LET IT BE FINALLY RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, the US House and Senate Representatives for the State of New Mexico, the Office of the New Mexico Governor, the UNM Board of Regents, the NMSU Board of Regents, the President of the University of New Mexico, the President of New Mexico State University, the Office of the Provost of the University of New Mexico, the UNM Vice President of Student Affairs, the UNM Dean of Students Office, the Deans of all colleges and schools at UNM, the UNM Faculty Senate, the United Grad Workers of UNM, the New Mexico State Grad Workers, and the UNM Daily Lobo, and the NMSU Roundup.

Adopted by the Graduate and Professional Student Association the University of New Mexico Council on this 29th day of October 2022.

Shaikh Ahmad
Shaikh Ahmad, GPSA President

Jarrold Ronquillo
Jarrod Ronquillo, GPSA Council Chair



**Resolution introduced by: Jarrod Ronquillo, Benjamin Garcia, Celine Ayala, Veronica Mitchell*