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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/07

SPONSOR Gutierrez LAST UPDATED _____ HB 106

SHORT TITLE NMSU Advance Partnership for Diverse Faculty SB _____

ANALYST Guambaña

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$1,000.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Senate Bill 28

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 106 appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to NMSU for the purpose of the Advance Partnership for Diverse Faculty Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,000,000 contained in House Bill 106 is a recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of 2008 shall revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU and NMHED equally assert that the NMSU ADVANCE Institutional Transformation (IT) was established in 2002 by an \$3.7 million given by the National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. NMSU does not fund the ADVANCE program. ADVANCE IT was originally intended to

attract high level female faculty to NMSU. By the end of 2005, this goal had been surpassed, with the percentage of STEM female faculty increased by 46.7%. House Bill 106 expands the opportunity to include underrepresented minorities as well as women. House Bill 106 will not supplement the current operating budget as the NSF grant will expire in December 2007.

House Bill 106 appropriates \$1,000,000 from the General Fund to NMSU to be split equally among NMSU, New Mexico Tech (NMT), and the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the purpose of improving recruitment and retention of diverse, high-demand faculty with direct relation to the soon-to-be-expired grant awarded to ADVANCE Institutional Transformation (IT). The funds will be used to purchase state-of-the-art equipment and supplies for the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields in an effort to continue to attract minorities in faculty positions for the ADVANCE IT.

The nationwide concern with diversity in academia combined with different levels of "candidate availability" means that NMSU, UNM, as well as NMT must compete with every other doctoral institution for excellent women and minority candidates. Because ethnic minority Ph.D.s are scarce across most academic fields, and the representation of women among doctoral recipients varies greatly with fewer women in fields like engineering and computer science, it is essential to provide state-of-the-art instrumentation and lab set-up costs for candidates in the natural and physical sciences and engineering. These enhanced start-up packages will position New Mexico to compete nationally and to retain the best talent to protect the state's investment in faculty.

This proposal was submitted to the Higher Education Department by NMSU but was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The augmentation of start-up packages for new faculty has enabled NMSU to double the number of women hired in the science and engineering fields. This funding request seeks to expand this approach across NM doctoral-granting institutions -- NMSU, NMT, and UNM -- so that excellent, high-demand diverse faculty are attracted to NM to conduct their world-class research here and mentor our New Mexican students to pursue science and engineering fields, thus contributing to the state's economic development.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

HB 106 is a duplicate of SB 28.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

This bill calls for initiatives to recruit and retain highly sought after faculty of underrepresented groups in Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math disciplines.

AG/nt