

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/2007

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Underrepresented Student Alliance SB 422

ANALYST McOlash

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	NFI		

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 58 and SB 30.

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 422 creates the **Alliance for Underrepresented Students (AUS)** at NMSU. SB 422 outlines the purposes of the AUS and mandates annual reports to the NMSU Regents and the Legislature detailing its activities and accomplishments.

The bill indicates that these reports be printed and distributed by the University, and “. . . revenue from the sale of the reports shall be paid into the account of New Mexico state university.”

The bill further provides that AUS may receive appropriations from the Legislature through the NMSU Regents and may receive gifts, grants, and donations from public or private sources.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct fiscal impact from SB 422 since the appropriations to the **Alliance** are included in other legislation.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Although the NMSU Regents have made reference to the “Alliance for Underrepresented Students” in various documents in the past, it appears that this Alliance exists only informally. SB 422, by an act of the Legislature, creates the Alliance for Underrepresented Students at NMSU and specifies other participating organizations and the purposes of the Alliance.

Regardless of the standing of AUS, it has been a public service project at NMSU supported by annual funding under HB2 (General Appropriations Act) for the past 10 years. The university submits funding requests annually for this and other initiatives that are considered to be Research and Public Service Projects (RPSP).

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 58 (NMSU Alliance for Underserved Students) and SB 30 (NMSU Underrepresented Student Alliance) each appropriate \$250,000 to the NMSU Regents in FY 2008 to “pay for recruitment and retention efforts of the Alliance for Underrepresented Students.”

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The AUS project, as outlined in SB 422) has two programs:

1. The New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (NM AMP)
2. The Regional Alliance for Science, Mathematics, Engineering, and Technology for Students with Disabilities (RASEM²).

New Mexico AMP’s programs and activities are designed to guide qualified students into leadership positions in industry, academia, and entrepreneurial pursuits upon completion of their baccalaureate degree and to help them prepare for graduate school.

New Mexico AMP is aligned with other National Science Foundation (NSF) programs in New Mexico who share this common vision including RASEM², also housed at NMSU. Other academic and statewide agencies, in collaboration and cooperation with New Mexico AMP, also provide internships, scholarships, mentoring and role models to help students complete their B.S. degree and go on to graduate school, industry, or entrepreneurship.

Both programs participate in local, statewide, and regional efforts to improve Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) preparation of future K-12 teachers and their effectiveness as educators. In addition to recruitment and retention of underrepresented students in STEM, the AUS project offers outreach, mentorship, tutoring, bridge programs, summer programs, undergraduate research, and student internships.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Will SB 422, by including participating organizations by name, restrict rather than expand participation?
2. Is the Legislature the appropriate vehicle for creating student-level organizations at higher education institutions?

BM/yr