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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/20/09

SPONSOR Stewart LAST UPDATED _____ HB 677

SHORT TITLE UNM Theatre Company In Residence SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

No Responses Received From
University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 677 appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for a theatre company in residence at the Department of Theatre and Dance.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this request was not submitted by UNM to the HED for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY10.

This appropriation is not included in the LFC appropriation recommendations for Higher Education.

The LFC Appropriation Recommendations, Volume II, pages 364-365 states:

The committee has concerns about the growth of research and public service projects within the higher education budget, as well as the alignment of these projects with state goals and strategic plans. The committee also continues to have significant concerns about accountability and performance outcomes for these projects.

The committee recommendation reduces funding included in the HED request by varying levels from FY09 funding amounts for research projects, public service projects and P-20 pipeline projects focusing on students.

With respect to special projects, higher education institutions advanced 114 proposals for new projects and expansions at a total general fund cost of \$54 million during the HED budget request process in fall 2008.

According to the February 2009 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$575 million less than the FY09 appropriations before the 2009 solvency reductions. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

The Executive Budget in Brief notes that over the years more than 300 RPSPs have been created, accounting for a large portion of institution budgets. The current RPSPs were reviewed while considering the relevance of the project to the core mission of the institution, the community benefit and the outcomes associated with each project. (Budget in Brief and Policy Highlights, P 9-10.)

The HED states that according to the Theater and Dance Department Administrator at UNM, Sarah Lentz, the \$50,000 appropriation will serve three primary functions. First, the funds will be used to pay half the tuition of a graduate student in the Theater and Dance Department and a stipend to the graduate student for his/her administrative work around the department. Second, these funds will allow UNM's Theater and Dance Department to bring in professional actors and dancers to teach a class to the students. Currently, there are roughly 400 majors in the Theater and Dance Department. Lastly, the funding will be used for the continuing partnership with the Albuquerque based, international theater organization, Tricklock. The Tricklock Company in conjuncture with the UNM Theater and Dance Department put on a couple of productions a year. This funding will be used to pay the Tricklock Company, build stage sets, as well as pay students who work during the performances.

The Theater and Dance Department chair, Susan Pearson, strives to develop emerging artists and further their careers, help all students expand their creativity and aesthetic awareness, and collaborate with the community to explore the issues of our lives and times. The vision of UNM's Department of Theater and Dance is, to build on the rich cultural and artistic diversity of the state of New Mexico as well as on national and international influences, aims to serve its students through education and training in dance, design for performance, and theatre in an environment that supports exploration, artistic curiosity, experimentation, risk-taking, creative collaboration, and innovative projects across the disciplines