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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/06

SPONSOR McSorley LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Expand UNM Graduate Research Program SB 282

ANALYST Hoffmann

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$500.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Senate Bill 514/FCS.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 282 appropriates \$500,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for the incremental expansion of the university's graduate research program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$500,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The University of New Mexico submitted a request for \$32,000 to the Higher Education Department for expansion of this program in fiscal year 2007.

Both the Executive budget recommendation and the LFC's appropriation recommendation include \$71,500 for this purpose.

According to the Higher Education Department, the mission of the Graduate Research Development Fund is to provide graduate and professional students the financial opportunity to pursue research and develop public service interests pertaining to their specialized area of study, while strengthening UNM's mission to develop into a superior research institution.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

The Higher Education Department provided the following information on how the funds are distributed to graduate research projects at UNM.

Priority is given to those applicants whose research addresses a relevant area of societal need not met by any other program or institution in New Mexico.

Priority is given to those applicants whose research is in collaboration with a New Mexico state agency.

Funds will be allocated on a competitive basis to students who submit proposals that are evaluated by a committee of administration, faculty, and graduate/professional students in a wide range of disciplines, with special consideration to those applicants whose research had a direct impact on the state of New Mexico.

CH/mt