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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/7/06

SPONSOR Robinson LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM African-American Studies Program SB 421

ANALYST Lewis

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	25.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 641 (UNM African-American Studies Program)

Relates to SB 549 (UNM African-American Student Services)

Relates to HC 937 (Capital Improvements in Albuquerque – including \$25,000 to purchase and install information technology for the African-American Studies Program at UNM)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Office of African American Affairs (OAAA)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 421 appropriates \$25,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to support the African-American Studies Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$25,000 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 State Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) supports SB 421, and notes that the appropriation is needed to help the African-American Studies Program reach its Mission Goals pertaining to the delivery of educational services, not only to African American students but to students at large who enroll in these academic courses.

OAAA notes that funding is also needed to enable the program to sponsor quality projects and programs that will benefit students and the surrounding communities, and that OAAA is partnering with the African American Studies Department to financially support already scheduled projects.

According to the Higher Education Department (HED), the African American Studies Program at UNM was championed by the Black community in Albuquerque and established in 1970. It is a multi-disciplinary degree-granting program that offers courses that illuminate the literature, history, and culture of the African or Black Diaspora. Upon graduation, participants should have developed strong research, writing, and interpersonal skills.

This appropriation was not on the list of priority projects submitted by UNM to the HED for review and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY07.

ML/yr