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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/06

SPONSOR McSorley LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Study Abroad Programs SB 582

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 582 appropriates \$200,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to support faculty and students in study abroad programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200,000 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

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by UNM to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and was not included in the department's fiscal year 2007 funding recommendation to the Legislature.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

UNM would administer the requested appropriation.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED reports that the Office of International Programs and Studies (OIPS) at UNM houses the exchange program where UNM students have opportunities to study abroad. UNM looks for motivated students who are interested in a change of life style, who like challenge, who have open minds, and who have flexible personalities for the Study Abroad Program. Types of programs UNM students may access include:

1. UNM's One-To-One Exchanges - Students exchange with a student from the partner school for one year or one semester. Students pay UNM tuition and almost all financial aid can be used. Credits earned overseas may be transferred back to UNM.

2. UNM Departmental Exchanges - Short-term Study Abroad Programs - Many UNM departments offer summer courses, field experiences, or other international programs.

3. New Mexico International Education Consortium - UNM has an agreement with several other universities in New Mexico to share our study abroad programs. Students will pay the regular tuition for that university for the study abroad program and can use all of their UNM financial aid.

4. UNM Affiliated Programs - In order to provide more options for places to study abroad, UNM works with other out-of-state providers. For most of these programs, students need to apply directly to the program and pay their regular tuition rates (which may be higher than UNM in-state tuition). However, all of these providers offer scholarship opportunities to UNM students. Students can use most of their UNM financial aid on these programs but will have to speak with a UNM financial aid advisor to find out if there are any restrictions.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

Is the intent of this legislation to provide financial aid/scholarships for students who choose to participate in exchange programs, or to provide administrative support to UNM for such programs?

How are current exchange programs supported within the university?

DKE/nt