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HOUSE MEMORIAL 123

49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2009

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Chasey

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF HIGHER EDUCATION TO NAME A WORKING GROUP TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING PRINCIPLES OF SHARED GOVERNANCE IN NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITIES.

WHEREAS, traditionally, colleges and universities in the United States have relied on a shared governance model of organization, which allows faculty and staff to participate in the formulation of academic missions and policies and in the decision-making process of the institution; and

WHEREAS, in the last decade, there has been a movement toward a corporate governance model that is based on running institutions of higher education like businesses; and

WHEREAS, the corporate governance model views the educational mission as just one aspect of the multi-faceted business in which the institution is engaged, including sports,

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1 entertainment, housing, health care and private corporate
2 research and development; and

3 WHEREAS, proponents of the corporate governance model
4 believe that university administrations must be able to act
5 swiftly in the face of changing circumstances and that
6 administrators must not be impeded in their ability to maintain
7 a competitive edge in today's difficult environment; and

8 WHEREAS, proponents of the shared governance model believe
9 that the academic mission must be paramount and that shared
10 governance provides a necessary check and balance on the power
11 of administrators and politically appointed governing boards;
12 and

13 WHEREAS, as noted in a university of California report on
14 the subject of shared governance, "without mutual participation
15 in decision making, the faculty and the administration would
16 stand apart on opposite sides of a table unproductively
17 complaining" about each other instead of facing together the
18 challenges of the times;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the secretary
21 of higher education be requested to name a working group made
22 up of representatives from faculty, administration and boards
23 of regents of the state's research and comprehensive
24 universities; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group be composed

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1 of an even number, one-half of whom are faculty, one-fourth of
2 whom are university presidents or high-level administrators and
3 one-fourth of whom are regents; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group study higher
5 education organization models, particularly as they relate to
6 state-funded universities; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the group be requested to
8 consider principles of shared governance and other best
9 practices for university governance that could be adopted by
10 all of the state universities; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the working group report its
12 findings and recommendations to the governor, the higher
13 education department and the appropriate interim legislative
14 committees; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
16 transmitted to the New Mexico legislative council and the
17 higher education department for appropriate distribution.