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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Roybal Caballero ORIGINAL DATE 2/3/2020
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 161
SHORT TITLE UNM Chicana and Chicano Studies Dept. SB _____
ANALYST Hawker

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY20	FY21		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB52, HB162 and HB171

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 161 appropriates \$200 thousand to the University of New Mexico for the Chicano and Chicana Studies Department for operational expenses.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2021 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

UNM's Chicana and Chicano studies is an interdisciplinary program that seeks to promote a critical understanding of Chicano, Hispano and Mexicano communities through teaching, research and advocacy.

UNM submitted this funding request to HED for possible incorporation in the HED's fiscal year 2021 funding recommendation. The requested funds would support faculty, staff, and student salaries, travel, supplies, equipment and advertising. According to UNM the department has a budget of \$17 thousand to support over 1,200 undergraduate students and 30 graduate students. HB161 provides program expansion funding which will support department operational costs. UNM's expects the Chicana Chicano department will be more effective at supporting the needs of an increasing number of undergraduate and graduate students.

RELATIONSHIP

HB52, HB162, and HB171 provide funding for UNM's Chicana and Chicano Studies Department.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The key objectives of the Chicano and Chicana Studies Department include increasing underrepresented undergraduate and graduate enrollments at UNM and increasing the number of degree earners who have cross cultural competency. The program offers a major, graduate certificate, Master of Arts and Doctorate programs. UNM states:

Over the past 5 years, the department of Chicana and Chicano Studies has grown 80% during a time of decreasing enrollment at UNM. Moreover, the program now offers MA and PhD programs. The current operating budget is \$17,000. The bill will offset the growth in workload and academic responsibilities related to growing administrative challenges. Additional funding will support and alleviate labor compressions and budget challenges in the department.

Aside from additional budget oversight for the Chair of the department, the bill actually alleviates administrative pressures within the department and the College of Arts and Sciences. Because the Unit Administrator oversees all personnel in the department, the addition of new staff will not create additional oversight for the College personnel. While the addition of staff members generates more workload for the Unit Administrator, the addition of staff will alleviate day-to-day workload for the coordinator because labor will be mitigated related to the growth in clerical, communication, and reporting obligations related to the recent expansion of the department.

VKH/sb