

**Proposition:** 46-16/17

**Title:** Memorial to the NMSU Board of Regents regarding the Central Administration's request for a 6% tuition increase

**Date Submitted:** 27 April 2017

**Sponsor(s):** Kelly (ENGR), Brown (A&S), Amatya (HHS), Billings (Non-TT), Bloomquist (ACES), Bronstein (A&S), Corran (DACC), Heien (Library), Josselet (NMSU-Carlsbad), Keys (A&S), Marin (ACES), Prentice (CoEd), Rayson (A&S), Roark-Diehl (NMSU-Alamogordo), Rosendorf (A&S), and Sassenfeld (ENGR)

**Proposed Committee:** Emergency Legislation

**Assigned Committee:** Emergency Legislation

**Prior Approvals:** N/A - this is a memorial.

**Proposal:**

By this memorial, the Faculty Senate at New Mexico State University shares with the NMSU Board of Regents serious concerns we have concerning the University Budget. By this memorial, we also express the strongest support possible for the 6% tuition increase that NMSU's Central Administration requests. The argument for this request follows:

- The recent veto of the entire higher education budget by Governor Susana Martinez has generated a high degree of uncertainty as regards funding the higher education budget of NMSU and all of our sister institutions. Regardless of the goal of this veto, this action comes at an especially critical time for NMSU as we prepare our budget for the next fiscal year and prepare to begin summer classes and planning for the fall 2017 term.
- Students contemplating enrolling at NMSU for the summer and fall, whether as first-year or continuing students, need to know that NMSU will be able to offer the programs they have chosen to pursue. Ancillary data available at the time this memorial is drafted indicate that 5-10% of currently enrolled students are "sitting on the fence" and not registering for fall 2017 classes, due to the uncertainty of the State and University budgets. The impending results of this uncertainty include our most productive and mobile faculty looking for faculty positions at other institutions (this is already happening), graduate students seeking to enroll elsewhere, and undergraduates decamping to other universities that have shown greater certainty in funding the core missions that all universities seek to advance.
- The key to being able to meet the elements of our mission at NMSU - advancing quality teaching and student success, conducting important research, and providing service and outreach activities to the people of the State of New Mexico - is the high

quality staff and faculty that have committed to make their careers at NMSU. The newest physical infrastructure, the most capable IT links to the rest of the world, and new buildings are helpful to us meeting our mission, but the key to us meeting our mission..... put simply, is the faculty and staff that make NMSU the great institution that it is.

- If we look at faculty lines and enrollments over the last 25 years, we see some trends worth noting:
  - We have basically the same number of tenure track and tenured faculty in 2015 as we did in 1990, 2000, and 2010.
  - We have basically the same # of both students enrolled at NMSU and FTE students as we did in these years.
  - This equates to a relatively fixed student to faculty ratio that has served NMSU well as we work to advance student success and conduct important research. Put simply, we don't have too many faculty.
- In the last 3 years, Chancellor Carruthers and his senior leadership team have made major cuts to our budget, specifically, we have reduced total Instruction & General expenditures by \$38M, which equates to a 22% reduction of the unrestricted I&G funds we use to run the university. Further reductions can only further erode our ability to meet our important mission.

Faculty, staff, members of the Central Administration, and our students all love NMSU and have a shared commitment to doing the best we can to meeting our mission. In the interest of this shared effort and commitment, The NMSU Faculty Senate respectfully but forcefully requests that the NMSU Board of Regents grant the request for a modest 6% tuition increase that the Chancellor makes. Doing so will allow NMSU to continue to meet our mission and the needs of our students and the State of New Mexico.