

October 3, 2012

Amy Neel, Ph.D., President, Faculty Senate
Ganesh Balakrishnan, Chair, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Faculty Senate
Linney Wix, Chair, Graduate Committee, Faculty Senate
The University of New Mexico

Dear Drs. Neel, Balakrishnan and Wix:

I am writing to state my support for the creation of a “U.S. and Global Diversity and Inclusion” (USGDI) university requirement for all undergraduate students at the University of New Mexico. In an increasingly global environment it is particularly important that graduating students are equipped to function in diverse environments and are able to communicate across lines of difference.

I am particularly supportive because adding a 3-credit USGDI requirement can be done without increasing the total credit hours required for graduation while still advancing our commitment to facilitating a deep learning of the values of diversity and inclusion in our undergraduates. Many courses across the university meet the requirements for the learning outcomes of USGDI and can double count as core curriculum, elective, or required courses in their degree program. New Mexico’s richness is predicated on our cultural and social diversity. As a majority-minority state, we have a unique responsibility to ensure that our curriculum reflects our values in the areas of diversity and inclusion.

UNM is our state’s flagship university, and has a responsibility to lead by example. Many of our regional peer institutions have already incorporated a diversity commitment into their degree program. We have a demonstrated commitment to diversity and inclusion values across UNM that would be elevated and enhanced by the creation of a USGDI university requirement.

I urge you to give thoughtful consideration and review to the significance of the USGDI requirement both for our undergraduate students and for the grand vision of UNM as New Mexico’s flagship institution of higher education.

Sincerely,



Robert G. Frank
President