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**M E M O R A N D U M**

Date: July 23, 2020

To: SFRB

From: Aeron Haynie, Executive Director, Center for Teaching & Learning

Re: **SFRB EMERGENCY FUNDING REQUEST FOR FY21: GRC**

1. Briefly explain the areas that you intend on prioritizing and allocating the SFRB funding towards (after 18.36% cut):

The 18.36% cut leaves the Graduate Resource Center with funding of $52,698, **all of which is used to pay student employee salaries**. The GRC graduate student consultants quickly and successfully transitioned their work to online following spring break and continued to provide quality academic and professionalization support throughout Spring and Summer semesters. Graduate student usage of services continued at expected levels and in group services*, usage surpassed previous spring and summer levels.* This demonstrated that graduate students, with high demands upon their time, continue making academic progress, even in the face of uncertainty and mounting anxiety. Our data further emphasize that not only are students continuing to seek out support services, they are engaging in group services at higher levels than ever before.

\*Summer services were not offered in 2019

SFRB funds will be used to pay graduate student employees whose focus in the upcoming academic year will be to support graduate students as online learners, instructors, and researchers, while also providing opportunities to connect across disciplines with other graduate students in virtual spaces through interactive online workshops, online writing camps, and online support groups.

1. What areas will not receive funding due to the budget cut? Why are these critical to your operations?

All SFRB funding is used to pay 5 graduate student employees. The budget cut will directly impact student salaries either through reduced hours or the elimination of one .50 FTE graduate student assistantship. Each graduate student covers a specific area (i.e., quantitative support, writing support, workshops, career coaching, and program coordination). A reduction of hours or elimination of a position will result in a decrease in support for the roughly 4,000 graduate students on campus at a time when student engagement and success is of utmost concern for our UNM community. We believe the academic and professionalization support that the GRC provides to UNM graduate students is vital to students’ persistence and sense of connectedness during COVID-19.

1. How will you use the emergency funding (if awarded), to address your critical needs?

**The Graduate Resource Center is requesting emergency funding of $11,552**.**71** If awarded, all funding will go toward graduate student salaries who will continue to provide graduate-student centered services that are not found elsewhere on campus. GRC student employees are trained in online modalities as learners and instructors, which allows them to serve their peers as they navigate new ways of learning, teaching, and building a sense of community.