JOINT RESOLUTION 4S

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico (ASUNM) is the representative body of the undergraduate students and promotes student success; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has affected the state and federal government, impacting businesses across the country, along with universities and their abilities to function; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has displaced university students and put students, university faculty, and administration into unique circumstances that affect the ability for students to obtain higher education in a normal setting; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has limited students at the University of New Mexico (UNM) from being able to live on campus, go onto campus, proceed to have student jobs, and attend classes in a normal setting; and

WHEREAS, COVID-19 has caused UNM events to be canceled after many students and faculty have worked tirelessly to host events; and

WHEREAS, misinformation surrounding COVID-19 has led to the increased discrimination and ostracization of minority communities, specifically the Asian-American community, around the world and at the University; and

WHEREAS, the transition to remote and virtual communication systems has resulted in meetings being crashed or “zoombombed,” causing students to face derogatory and inappropriate language or images directed at certain individuals; and

WHEREAS, ASUNM individual student organizations are struggling to adapt to a remote learning and a social environment; and

WHEREAS, throughout the span of the COVID-19 pandemic, students have been placed in circumstances where learning and completing coursework has
become increasingly difficult; and

WHEREAS, students are seeing financial and emotional burdens due to COVID-19, causing students to request emergency scholarships at an increasing amount; and

WHEREAS, students are being displaced due to sudden changes with on-campus housing and sudden changes in UNM policies; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, ASUNM recognizes the hardships that COVID-19 has caused for people all across the world; displacing students, putting people out of work, and impacting local businesses while also those working the frontlines; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, ASUNM recognizes the burden that COVID-19 has placed on students, staff, and faculty; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, ASUNM recognizes how difficult transitioning online has been for students and faculty due to COVID-19; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, ASUNM advocates for lenient classroom policies to enable students to still be successful despite current circumstances; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, ASUNM advocates that due to misinformation and confusion, students are informed about changes in University policy in a timely fashion; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, ASUNM is a proponent of increased financial resources to the UNM student body, whether it be in forms of scholarships, grants, or loans, in efforts to relieve students’ financial burdens; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, ASUNM is in support of resources and advisement that help students facing increased discrimination and ostracization specifically those of the Asian-American community because of COVID-19; and

THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, ASUNM does not promote rhetoric that continues to discriminate and ostracize minority groups during COVID-19; and
THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the UNM Board of Regents, UNM President Garnett Stokes, UNM Provost James Holloway, UNM Vice President of Student Affairs Eliseo “Cheo” Torres, UNM Vice President for Equity and Inclusion Assata Zerai, UNM Dean of Students Nasha Torrez, UNM Alumni Association, UNM Foundation, and UNM Student Body.

Adopted by the Associated Students of the University of New Mexico on this 29th day of April

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Adam Biederwolf, ASUNM President

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Madelyn Lucas, ASUNM Vice President

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Emma Hotz, ASUNM President Pro-Tempore

*Resolution introduced by: Senator S. Musa, Senator E. Hotz, Senator R. Regalado