

**The Associated Students
Of
New Mexico State University**

Resolution #15

The attached legislation has been properly approved by the members of the Sixtieth Senate of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University in accordance with ASNMSU Law.



9-26-2016

Donovan Olvera, ASNMSU Chief Senate Clerk

Date



9-26-2016

Kevin Prieto, ASNMSU Vice President

Date

**SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
OF NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY**

RESOLUTION #15

SIXTIETH SENATE

2016-2017

Introduced by:	<u>Jenkins, Cassidy, Barragan-Rivera</u>	Date: <u>8/23/2016</u>
Referred to:	<u>Rules, Community Affairs, Finance</u>	Date: <u>8/25/2016</u>
Senate Action:	<u>FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION</u>	Date: <u>9/22/2016</u>
Date Signed:	_____	

LX-16-17

A RESOLUTION

1 CONCERNING THE NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY FSA HANDBOOK CHAPTER 10.2.1B UPDATING
2 MARITAL STATUS.

3

4 WHEREAS, the policy reads “A student’s marital status reported on the FAFSA application must reflect the status
5 of the student as of the date the application was signed... Federal Regulation 668.55 does allow, at the discretion of
6 an institution, for a student’s marital status to be updated to address an inequity or to reflect more accurately the
7 applicant’s ability to pay. However it is the policy of New Mexico State University that under no circumstances will
8 a student’s marital status be updated on a FAFSA application.”

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10 WHEREAS, the United States Department of Education requires updates to dependency status changes by law but
11 allows for universities on a case-by-case basis to exclude changes in marital status; and,

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13 WHEREAS, protected dependency status changes include all other dependency changes including adoption,
14 emancipation, joining the military, and pregnancy; and,

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16 WHEREAS, a couple is also excluded from reporting a divorce under New Mexico State University’s current policy
17 such that a divorced couple receives grants and benefits of marriage even being separated. “A student is considered
18 married if they are separated [or] planning to divorce”; and,

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20 WHEREAS, the university’s choice to exclude reported dependency status updates with or without the law’s
21 exception is unethical and dishonest.

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23 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University that
24 New Mexico State University require updates to marital status to the federal government.

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26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies be sent to the President of New Mexico State University, the Executive
27 Vice President and Provost of New Mexico State University, President of the Associated Students of New Mexico
28 State University, Vice President of the Associated Students of New Mexico University, the Financial Aid Advisors,
29 the Presidents of each College Council, and the student media organizations of New Mexico State University.