A Bill to Make CUSG More Transparent

Bill History

This legislation is meant to build upon 80LCB11, which was passed by acclamation on February 13th, 2014. That legislation aimed to increase transparency by making legislation more easily available on the CUSG website (CUSG.colorado.edu). However, that bill needs to be built on in order to make efforts to increase CUSG’s transparency thorough in the short-term and sustainable in the long-term.

It is a priority for CUSG to be as transparent as possible in letting the student body and general public know what it does and how it allocates their student fees. This legislation would certainly go a long way in making the work CUSG does more accessible to every student and the entire CU community.

Bill Summary

This bill amends the Legislative Council Bylaws so all legislation brought before Legislative Council, budgets included, is available on the CUSG website. This bill tasks the Legislative Council Adviser with posting this information on the CUSG website. This bill also encourages CUSG to move forward in creating a more substantive website.
Whereas, it should continue to be a priority of CUSG to be as transparent as possible to the student body.

Whereas, students have a right to know how their student fee dollars are used and to know what legislation is being debated on their behalf.

Whereas, making CUSG more transparent is not costly and doesn't interrupt the ability of CUSG to conduct business.

Whereas, increased transparency in CUSG is not only good practice, but also potentially a useful resource when educating the student body about the work CUSG is doing.

Whereas, having information centrally located makes it easier for legislators to review legislation and cost center budgets as needed.

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Boulder Student Government, THAT:

Section 1: Amend Legislative Council Bylaw III.A.j.vi. (“Final Passage” section) sections 2 and 3, which currently read:

“2. Once legislation has become effective or successfully vetoed through the protocol set forth above, or has failed to pass the legislative council on first or second reading:
   a. A digital version of the legislation must be uploaded to the CUSG website’s ‘Bill Database’ section within 5 business days by the person or persons appointed to do so by the Legislative Council President.
   b. Should the appointee designated with the digital publication responsibilities listed above not be able to perform their duty within 5 business days, a person whom the appointee has trained and designated that responsibility may do the publication.

3. The Legislative Council President shall appoint a person or persons responsible for carrying out the duties set forth in section 2 at the beginning of each legislative session. Such person or persons may be a member of Legislative Council, Executive staff,
permanent CUSG staff, or any combination of the three. Training on how to carry out these duties shall be provided in a timely manner by CUSG staff.”

to read:

To state:

“2. Once legislation has been proposed in Legislative Council:
   a. A digital version of the legislation, in text-based PDF form, must be uploaded to the CUSG website before First Reading and within one week after Second Reading.
   b. Budgets of the individual cost centers and the CUSG budget shall be posted in their final version within one week of being passed.
   c. The task listed above shall be the responsibility of the CUSG Legislative Advisor.
   d. Should the CUSG Legislative Adviser not be able to perform their duty as described above, the Legislative Council Vice President must do so within one week.

3. Training on how to carry out these duties will be provided before the beginning of each session by CUSG staff.”

Section 2: For the remainder of the current 82nd session, the Legislative Council President shall appoint a person responsible for carrying out the duties set forth in section 2 upon this bill going into effect.

Section 3: The Executive Branch is encouraged to create another Request For Proposal (RFP) in order to work towards a website that is able to support an interactive, searchable bill database.

Section 4: Until CUSG’s website can support an interactive, searchable bill database, legislation will be left where it was posted. Once that portion of the CUSG website is active, legislation in all of its versions will be transferred to the interactive, searchable database.

Section 5: This bill shall take effect upon passage by the Legislative Council and upon either obtaining the signature of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without action by the Tri-Executives.

Vote Count:

2/5/2015   Approved on First Reading   Acclamation
Move to Amend Section 2 to change 48 hours to one week, add Legislative Adviser instead of Leg Council VP, and insert Leg Council VP for Recording Secretary

Approved on Second Reading

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Rachel Leonard                Juedon Kebede
Legislative Council President  President of Student Affairs

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Lora Roberts                  Chelsea Canada
President of Internal Affairs  President of External Affairs