

SENATE BILL NO. 566

101ST GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY SENATOR MOON.

2029S.02I

ADRIANE D. CROUSE, Secretary

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to campus intellectual diversity.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.2161, to read as follows:

173.2161. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Campus Intellectual Diversity Act".

2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Debate", an event at which two or more participants speak in favor of opposing approaches to the same public policy dispute, after which each participant is allotted time to address and rebut the position presented by the opposing speaker or speakers;

(2) "Group forum", an event at which two or more speakers address a public policy dispute from divergent or opposing perspectives, after which each participant is allotted time to address questions from the audience and to comment on their fellow speakers' positions, if they so choose;

(3) "Institution", any public institution of higher education in this state.

3. The coordinating board for higher education shall establish, fund, and staff an office of public policy events

19 on every campus of every institution for the following
20 purposes:

21 (1) Organizing a substantial number of debates, group
22 forums, and individual lectures;

23 (2) Obtaining the participation of speakers who
24 represent widely held views on opposing sides of the most
25 widely discussed public policy issues of the day; and

26 (3) Inviting and hosting speakers who can ably
27 articulate opposing and widely held perspectives on public
28 policy issues.

29 4. The responsibilities of the office of public policy
30 events shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

31 (1) Organizing, publicizing, and staging debates,
32 group forums, and individual lectures that address from
33 multiple, divergent, and opposing perspectives an extensive
34 range of public policy issues widely discussed and debated
35 in society at large;

36 (2) Inviting speakers who hold a wide diversity of
37 perspectives, from within and outside the campus community,
38 to participate in debates, group forums, and individual
39 lectures;

40 (3) Inviting speakers from outside the institution if
41 the office of public policy events is unable to find an
42 advocate from within the university who is well-versed in a
43 perspective the office wishes to see represented in a given
44 debate, group forum, or individual lecture;

45 (4) Providing, where necessary, honoraria, travel, and
46 lodging expenses to people from outside the campus community
47 who participate in debates, group forums, and individual
48 lectures organized by the office of public policy events;

49 (5) Maintaining a permanent, publicly accessible,
50 searchable, and up-to-date calendar in print and internet-

51 accessible formats listing all events sponsored by the
52 office of public policy events, and all other debates, group
53 forums, and individual lectures open to the entire campus
54 community at a given institution, that address public policy
55 issues, itemizing the title of the event or lecture, the
56 name and institutional affiliation of the speaker or
57 speakers, and the office, institute, department, program, or
58 organization that sponsored the event, excluding those
59 events sponsored by off-campus groups in rented facilities;

60 (6) Delivering a printed and a PDF-formatted copy of
61 the previous academic year's annual public policy event
62 calendar for all institutions, arranged chronologically for
63 each institution, to the public, the governor, and the
64 general assembly by September first of each year, and
65 preserving and making available to the public copies of all
66 yearly event calendars in the libraries of the institution;

67 (7) Making publicly available a complete internet-
68 accessible video record of every debate, group forum, and
69 individual lecture organized by the office of public policy
70 events, posting that video record on the internet within ten
71 in-session working days of the event in question, and
72 maintaining that video record in a fully public, internet-
73 accessible form for at least five years following the date
74 of the event. Video recordings of every debate, group
75 forum, and individual lecture organized by the office of
76 public policy events at a given institution shall also be
77 permanently preserved within, and made available to the
78 public through, the libraries of that institution.

79 5. At its discretion, for any given campus of an
80 institution, the coordinating board for higher education may
81 assign the duties of the office of public policy events to
82 an existing administrative office, so long as an

83 administrator in that office is designated as the director
84 of public policy events for that campus. In such cases, the
85 duties and reporting responsibilities of the office of
86 public policy events shall apply to the director of public
87 policy events and the director's staff.

88 6. The office of public policy events on any given
89 campus of an institution shall report directly to either the
90 institution's office responsible for compiling and reporting
91 the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS)
92 Graduation Rate Survey or to the office of general counsel
93 on that campus.

94 7. All debates, group forums, and individual lectures
95 organized by the office of public policy events at a given
96 institution shall be open to all students, faculty, and
97 staff at that institution and, unless restricting attendance
98 by persons unaffiliated with the institution is necessary to
99 achieve a compelling governmental interest, to the general
100 public as well.

101 8. The general assembly may appropriate funds to each
102 institution for the purpose of providing moneys for each
103 institution's office of public policy events. If no funds
104 are appropriated under this section, each institution shall
105 provide moneys for the office from funds appropriated to it.

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