

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY
FORTY-FIFTH SENATE
NINETEENTH SESSION
February 10, 2016**

**BILL #4514
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT– The Diversity Bill**

SPONSORED BY: Tess Holohan, Senator College of Agriculture; Katt Crowdis, Associate Justice; Pranaya Sathe, Senator College of Liberal Arts; Madison Tolan, Senator CVMBS; Marco Durazo, Associate Senator; Jon Goldstone, Senator CVMBS

WRITTEN BY: Kwon Yearby; Jason Sydoriak, President ASCSU
COLLABORATED WITH:

ENDORSED BY: Clayton King, Director of Governmental Affairs; Spencer Nolan, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Christian Harbert, Senator, Intra-University; Internal Affairs Committee, Alexis Harrison, Senator, Graduate School; Duane Hansen, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Kenny Hilaire, Senator, Graduate School; Connor Kealey, Senator, Graduate School; Carroll Conley, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Yohana Tuquabo, Deputy Director of Diversity.

ABSTRACT: Creates Senator Seats for the cultural, resource and advocacy centers at CSU to improve equity, diversity and inclusion.

WHEREAS

The Preamble of the Constitution of the Associated Students of Colorado State University states:

“The purpose of our organization (ASCSU) is to represent a student body comprised of a multitude of individuals and cultures, linked by our common denominators, yet distinguished by our unique experiences.

The Associated Students of Colorado State University actively solicits and encourages all of its members, regardless of race, gender, national origin, sexual orientation, religion, differing ability, age and class, to participate fully in both its formal and informal activities. This shall include working to create a diverse reflection of the Colorado State student body in Senate and Cabinet positions, in appointments to committees, and in who is sought for direction on important issues. Furthermore, ASCSU is committed to working toward the removal of all barriers, which prevent members from pursuing their affiliation herein and in achieving the most complete educational experience possible. This commitment will be fulfilled by a continual re-examination of organizational structures for inclusiveness, by creating programs and services that provide education and

support, and by speaking out and fighting against acts of discrimination on campus and within the Fort Collins community”; and,

WHEREAS

In order to better embody our preamble the Forty Third Senate passed Bill 4325, which established representatives with Article II Section 217 of the ASCSU Constitution stating:

“Representatives shall also be appointed by the Centers of Student Diversity Programs and Services. These Representatives are members of Senate retaining rights of debate but not the right to vote. These [Representatives] shall be responsible to their constituents and shall seek advisement on a regular basis from the Directors of the cultural, advocacy, or resource center from which the Representative is appointed. These Representatives, however, are not bound by the advisement of their Directors. The term of office for these Representatives shall begin with their being sworn in at the following session of their appointment and will last until the new Senate is seated”; and,

WHEREAS

The Forty-Third Senate of ASCSU voted to have representatives from the Centers of Student Diversity Programs and Services (SDPS) and the Adult Learner and Veteran Services Office (For the sake of simplicity SDPS Offices from here on will encompass all SDPS offices and the ALVS within this bill). These representatives played a vital role in expanding the diversity of ASCSU and forwarding the mission of inclusive excellence of Colorado State University. This historic vote successfully integrated people of color, gender equality advocates, non-traditional students and veterans into ASCSU. However, the Forty-Forth Senate effectively repelled this vote in an attempt to broaden inclusivity further than the SDPS offices. Section 217 was rewritten to create the Inclusive Excellence Committee, which would eventually choose representatives not necessarily from SDPS offices; and,

WHEREAS

During November of last year students lead a demonstration showing solidarity with the students of Mizzou. In doing so they provided a list of recommendations, which include, *“We recommend the recreation of representative positions of diversity in the student government (ASCSU) senate and on the faculty council”*, so;

WHEREAS

The current structure of recruiting Senators through college councils does not accommodate for the unique and important perspectives of the many cultures found in the SDPS offices. Despite its good intentions the Inclusive Excellence Committee has added another layer of vetting for students to undergo before serving in an official capacity

within Senate. This extra standard may seem unwelcoming to students who may already feel uncomfortable participating in this organization; and,

WHEREAS

The ASCSU Constitution Article II Section 215 to 217, established the Inclusive Excellence Committee, which reads as:

“Section 215: The Inclusive Excellence Committee will serve Colorado State University as an external committee centered around inclusion and diversity in accordance with its purpose. The committee shall be comprised of: the ASCSU Director of Diversity, who shall serve as chair; at least 2 ASCSU Senators; and all additional members shall be determined in accordance with the Inclusive Excellence Committee Bylaws.

Section 216: The Inclusive Excellence Committee shall have the power to establish its own bylaws as the members deem necessary. Senate must vote to approve the Bylaws of the Inclusive Excellence Committee. If new Bylaws cannot be passed, the Inclusive Excellence Committee will operate under the last Bylaws approved by the ASCSU Senate. All changes to the Bylaws must be clearly presented to the ASCSU Senate.

Section 217: The Inclusive Excellence Committee shall have the power to elect Representatives from the voting members of the Committee and such Representatives shall be the voice of the committee across Campus. These Representatives will hold the rights of debate within the ASCSU Senate, and will be subject to the duties defined by the Inclusive Excellence Committee Representative Job description. A voting member of the Inclusive Excellence Committee can become a Representative according to the Inclusive Excellence Committee bylaws and subsequently ratified by the ASCSU Senate. All other members of the Committee, voting and non-voting, may participate as a member of the gallery”; and,

WHEREAS

There should still remain a space in which students passionate about matters of inclusivity that ASCSU can directly support. However, committees and public forums need to have flexibility to evolve without needing to change through the process of Constitutional Amendment. The IEC should be included in both the ASCSU Executive and Senate’s bylaws in order to allow for a space for Senators to collaborate and communicate on issues. It should then be removed from the ASCSU Constitution to accommodate for this need of flexibility; and,

WHEREAS

By creating a separate group of representatives within Senate we are creating a second class. Although it is grand gesture of solidarity to allow representation of historically

oppressed individuals of diversity, it would still be an injustice to let provide unequal participation; and,

WHEREAS

By creating a separate group to participate in Senate without the full rights of participation we are perpetuating systemic injustice for the sake of trying to sustain a governmental system largely influence by privilege. In order to make ASCSU more inclusive and representative of the SDPS offices we should develop innovative, effective, and welcoming institutions; and,

WHEREAS

There has been no indication that layered representation creates an imbalance of power within Senate. Even if this could be proven, Senators of SDPS offices would be advocating, deliberating, and voting on behalf of demographic groups that are traditionally underrepresented, so;

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That Article II Section 202 of the ASCSU Constitution be rewritten as:

“Senators shall be elected by a plurality vote of the members voting for that college at the general election, with one Senator from each academic college for every 750 members of ASCSU, or major portion (375) thereof in that college, provided that every college has at least two *Senators*. The Graduate School shall be represented in the same manner. *The Student Diversity Programs and Services Offices and the Adult Learner and Veteran Service Office and the Office of International Programs shall be represented with one Senator per office and shall be appointed to office at the discretion of that office. A registered student organization representing a historically underrepresented population which is not currently represented in the body may also petition the Director of Diversity and upon a 2/3 vote receive a seat, appointed by their respective executive officer, and in operate in a manner similar to SDPS offices* These Senators shall be allowed to ~~run~~ *pursue* ~~for~~ only one *Senator seat*. *If pursuing a seat to represent a college as a member or one anticipating membership of that college, and they shall be elected by the members of that college during the general elections or by approval of their college council at any other time during* ~~of~~ the year. These Senators must be members of the college-respective *body* that they represent by the first Senate session of the fall semester. The term of office for Senators shall begin with their being sworn in at a Senate session and will last until the new Senate is seated.”

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That Article II Section 211 of the ASCSU Constitution be rewritten as:

“Associate Senators shall be elected by their respective College Council. There shall be no more than two Associate Senators for each college Senator. Associate Senators must be a member of the college that they represent. The SDPS, ALVS, International Programs offices and any student organization granted a Senator position by Senate will be provided with no more than one Associate Senator.”

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a new section be added into Article V, Section 503, which will read as:

“An Inclusive Excellence Council will be established to represent the particular interests and concerns of students from underrepresented populations.”

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That the Cultural, Advocacy, and Resource Centers of Student Diversity Programs and Services (SDPS) and Adult Learner and Veteran Services (ALVS) be again allowed to appoint no more than one Senator each to the Senate of the Associated Students of Colorado State University.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That Article II Section 215, Article Section 216, and Article Section 217 be repealed and removed from the ASCSU Constitution. It will be recommended that a new IEC be created in a collaborative effort between the Senate and the Executive using their Bylaws.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That Senators appointed by SDPS Centers or the ALVS Office shall be exempt from going to college council meetings but shall be encouraged to go to their respective college council. However they shall be held to the same standards that all Senators are according to the ASCSU Constitution, Senate Bylaws, and appropriate job descriptions.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Senate Recruitment and Retention Officer shall be responsible for recruiting and introducing SDPS and ALVS appointments to Senate for ratification. The Membership Officer shall also be responsible for mentoring these Representatives on the rules and operating procedures of Senate.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That all Senators shall meet the requirements of their office and be held fully accountable to the rules and regulations of the Constitution of the Associated Students of Colorado State University and the Bylaws of the Senate.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Senate Recruitment and Retention Officer; Mark Barker, Director of ALVS; JoAnn Cornell, Director of APACC; Bridgette Johnson, Director of

B/AACC; Guadalupe Salazar, Director of El Centro; Aaric Guerriero, Director of GLBTQ²A; Ty Smith, Director of NACC; Rosemary Kreston, Director of RDS; Monica Rivera, Director of WGAC; Dr. Kathy Sisneros, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr. Tony Frank, Colorado State University President; and Dr. Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs.

21-9-1

3/9/2016

PASSAGE

DATE



PRESIDENT JASON SYDORIAK

3/11/2016

DATE

TAGS: Diversity, Inclusion, SDPS, ALVS,