

August 3, 1989

31 LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL BILL #12

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO

STUDENT UNION

Sponsored by: Representatives-at-Large Julie O'Brian
 Adam Kaplin
 Charles Ellis
 Scott Teruya
 Alan Ikeya

Authored by: Representative-at-Large Julie O'Brian
 A BILL

BILL HISTORY

UCSU has been an active participant in the United States Student Association for a number of years excluding the past year. UCSU has been a fee paying member since 1984 and even hosted the National Student Congress in 1986.

Past administrations have gathered knowledge from various USSA workshops and applied it towards goals including the 1986-87 Tuition Freeze Campaign and the creation of CSA. Two years ago UCSU sent six representatives to the National Congress, last year they sent two.

On July 20th Legislative Council voted to support CSA (Colorado Student Association) joining USSA. On July 29th CSA became an official member of USSA, giving CU eight delegate positions at the National Congress this summer.

This year's National Congress will be held August 4-9 in Berkley, California.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill allocates an amount not to exceed \$1277.00 + GAR to send UCSU representatives to the 1989 USSA summer national congress in Berkley, California August 4-9.

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislative Council of the University of Colorado Student Union, THAT:

SECTION 1: An amount not to exceed \$1277.00 + GAR shall be allocated from Central Reserve to cover partial costs of sending UCSU representatives to the 1989 USSA summer National Congress.

SECTION 2: A written report will be submitted pursuant to 24 ECB #4.

SECTION 3: This bill takes effect upon passage.

BUDGET

Member registration fee @\$190 x 3	\$570.00
Meal ticket @\$50 x 3	150.00
Parking @\$7	7.00
Transportation (by car)	250.00
Airline travel	300.00
Total	<u>\$1277.00</u>

8/03/89 - PASSES - LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL - SPECIAL ORDER - ACCLAMATION

Kurt Colburn
President Pro-Tempore
Summer Replacement
UCSU Legislative Council

Alan Ikeya
UCSU Executive

Dawn Massop
Dawn Massop
UCSU Executive

Tracy Wahl
Tracy Wahl
UCSU Executive

31 LCB⁴12

TO: Robert Ervais, UCSU Legislative Council President Pro-Tem
FROM: Karey Ullemeyer, UCSU Representative at Large
DATE: September 21, 1989
RE: USSA Congress Report

I attended the 1989 USSA Congress in Berkeley, CA from August 4-August 7, 1989. UCSU paid for my registration fee, meal package and transportation to the congress.

Overall, I feel the conference was extremely beneficial. I was able to meet and exchange ideas with student leaders from other campuses, especially New York and California schools. I came home with numbers of BSA and UMAS (MEChA) leaders at other campuses to pass on to the CU student groups.

The general sessions, in my eyes, were not appropriate and took up too much time with topics unrelated to higher education. The sessions featured speakers who focused on issues such as-- Gay/Lesbian rights, boycotting grapes, etc... I feel these topics should have been presented in a workshop setting. It would have been much more beneficial if things like the reauthorization of financial aid and tuition costs had been covered in the general sessions.

I attended a workshop track on recruitment and retention. This track consisted of 5 sessions that ranged from how financial aid and tuition limit the numbers of minorities at schools to course curriculum. Dick Gregory, a well-known speaker and facilitator, led the final workshop which dealt with how to change your campus.

There were also meetings during which amendments to the USSA Constitution were discussed and voted on. These meetings were not always successful. At one point, members of the people of color caucus left during voting because they were so angry. Colorado was often frustrated being such a small region and received criticism from several New York members. I think they felt we were racist because we didn't represent any minority groups.

In the future, I would suggest spending the money to send the maximum number of delegates possible. However, I do not suggest that they are all UCSU representatives. It would be a very good idea to send the President of BSA and UMAS, since these are very active groups at the congress.

Overall, I feel the congress was

A Congress Report
 Submitted by: Julie O'Brian

The annual USSA congress that meets every summer is the one time each year that a large representative body of students, both leaders and activists, gather to set priorities for USSA. Every member school has the right and the responsibility to send representatives to the congress. Representation numbers is based on the size of the institution. Colorado University at Boulder can send up to eight representatives to the congress. Colorado as a state can send up to forty-five. This year UCSU sent three voting representatives to the National Congress held in Berkeley, California.

Six different types of activities were scheduled over a five day period. These included: regional meetings, workshops, Affiliate/caucus meetings, task force meetings, plenary sessions, and General sessions. Standing committees also met periodically throughout the congress, but since I did not participate in any of these I will limit my discussion to describing their purpose.

Regional Meetings: The Rocky Mountain Region includes Colorado, Arizona, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada. Unfortunately only representatives from Colorado, and Utah were present from our region. Regional meeting were designed to give students a chance to develop policy in a smaller setting, to have a support group, and to elect representatives to the board of directors. Wendi Brown from Utah, and I were elected from our region to serve on the board of directors. Regions were also seated together at the general and plenary sessions.

Workshops: A variety of workshop tracks were offered. In our region we decided to go to different tracks with the hope of sharing the information we gained from our specific workshops. I chose the Organization track. This track focused on direct action organizing as a way to empower students. We were given a basic model for organizing in our first workshop. The remaining workshop focused on putting the model into action. This workshop was my favorite part of the congress. Not only did I gain insight into methods of organizing around issues, but I also had the opportunity to hear what sort of things worked at other schools across the country. This highlighted one of the most important functions of USSA, to act as a networking resource for schools across America.

Affiliate/Caucus Meetings: Caucuses served to divide congressional participants along lines of shared special interests. The caucuses (affiliates) included: Community College Affiliate, Graduate and Professional affiliate, National people of Color Student coalition, Lesbian\Gay\bisexual Caucus, Non-traditional Student Caucus, Students with disabilities caucus, Veterans caucus, Women's affiliate, and Women of Color Caucus. These caucuses elected voting and non-voting members to the board of directors, as well as developing legislation to be

voted on in the general and plenary sessions.

Task Force Meetings: These meetings were for special interests including environmental concerns, peace, women's issues, and general national policy on a variety of issues. I attended a meeting on farm policy in the United States that was not only informative, but also allowed me to understand something I had never understood before.

General sessions: These were designed to inform the congress on USSA and its functions as well as on issues that can relate to access to education. On general session we had a woman named Karen Thompson speak on disablism and homophobia. Some congress delegates felt this was an inappropriate topic for the general session. I found this talk to be very inspiring and helpful to my understanding how these two problems can be overlooked on our own campus.

Plenary sessions: This was a meeting of the entire congress in which we changed the bylaws and the constitution, and set a policy platform for the organization for the next year. These sessions were somewhat like a legislative council meeting with two-hundred voting members instead of twenty.

The congress was an amazing opportunity for students from every imaginable background to come together to discuss their similarities. Unfortunately, diversity often brings with it difficulty, especially when dissenting opinions are under-represented, as was the case with Colorado. At the congress, one group with 60 delegates was successful in dominating the agenda with their own interests. The result raised significant questions about the future of the organization, namely can USSA establish a focus to organize on the primary issues of education? That focus exists in the real day to day efforts of the national office, and consumes almost all of the organization's resources. It has become part of UCSU's role in the organization to assure this focus permeates all aspects of USSA.

USSA walks a fine line, trying to find a balance between its leadership of the national student movement and its role as the student voice in national education policy and legislation. On issues with direct impact on students, most notably financial aid, civil rights, accessibility for the disabled and the role of research on campus, federal decision making determines the character of higher education. UCSU's participation in USSA is the only way it represents CU students on these issues. Despite the need for change with USSA it is an organization we can't live without.

31-208 #12

USSA 42nd National Student Congress

August 4-9, 1989

Berkeley, California

Scott Teruya

Legislative Council Music Representative

Legislative Council,

Along with Julie O'Brian, and Karey Ullemeyer, I attended the USSA summer conference in Berkeley, California, this past August.

The general assembly included USSA representatives from 31 states across the nation. This assembly is divided into thirteen regions. The Rocky Mountain region consists of Arizona, Colorado, Nevada, Utah, and Wyoming. Besides CU, only CSA, and two representatives from Utah were present from our region.

Special affiliates are also comprised of USSA members whom are able to identify themselves as a member of the constituency represented. These affiliates are: People of Color, People with Disabilities, Veteran's Caucus, Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual Caucus, Women of Color Caucus, Graduate/Professional Caucus, Non-Traditional Students, and the National Women Students Coalition.

The executives include the president, Vice president, Finance Officer and an Affirmative action Officer. R. There is also an executive staff. The USSA Board of Directors are elected from each region(2), and various numbers of delegates from each of the affiliates.

The Congress itself consisted of General Session, Regionals, Affiliate meetings, Task Force meetings, and Workshops.

The General Session usually consisted of an opening speaker, then general assembly(Constitutional and By-Law changes

etc.). There were two regional meetings a day. In these, special concerns of the region were discussed. The affiliate meetings were set up so that a person could only participate in at most two different affiliates (to prevent conflicts of interests). The concerns of the task forces are issues such as Economic Justice, Pro-Choice, Education Reform, etc.. The workshops were probably the most informative part of the conference. These were divided into seven tracks: education, governance, organization, access, equity, recruitment and retention, and state student association. Within our region, we divided ourselves up in order to attend all tracks which we discussed later at regional meetings.

I attended the education track. This track examined content and funding of education. The first session, Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act: Time to Make a Change, is the most important issue for higher education. Reauthorization is the process by which changes, including eligibility standards and fees, are made in federal student aid and other programs in the Higher Education Act of 1965. We discussed strategies for deciding what our priorities should be and changes we need to pursue. The reauthorization will take place in 1991.

Along the same lines, National Service: Nice Work if You Can Get it?, focused upon the potential effects of proposed national service legislation on both financial aid and existing student service programs.

Student Aid Primer: to Fell and Back reviewed federal student aid programs, funding constraints and the relationship between federal, state, and institutional aid.

The two other sessions were titled The Fourth R: Reforming

the Curriculum and What's Up?..Tuition.

Overall, the congress was not run very professionally. Organization was especially poor. I had a definite problem with the actions of the Empire regions in which strong racial remarks were presented. There were also some high points. By far the most important of which was the contact with other student leaders.