

March 14, 1991

34 Legislative Council Bill #16

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO  
STUDENT UNION

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A BILL

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BILL HISTORY

Initiated in 1980 during former CU President Arnold Weber's tenure, the athletic fee was originally designed as a temporary measure to assist a financially troubled athletic department. At the time, CU was nearly defaulting on bond payments for the Events/Conference Center. Also, CU needed to create one additional women's athletic program to comply with federal anti-sex discrimination regulations and thereby continue to qualify for federal financial support. The sport added was volleyball. A \$10-a-semester temporary athletic fee was initiated as a solution to both these dilemmas.

Between 1980 and 1987 the athletic fee rose to \$19.75 a semester. Within the last year and a half the athletic fee has been raised to \$33 a semester and now accounts for more than \$1.6 million of the athletic department's operations budget, which itself is estimated at between \$10 million and \$20 million.

Nearly all bond payments on the Events Center have been made, and the women's volleyball program is firmly established. Furthermore, to quote Regent Peter Dietze, the athletic fee was intended to be an "interim measure", yet the athletic fee has been maintained and raised drastically to subsidize the athletic department's general operations budget despite the football team's two consecutive Orange Bowl appearances and recent national championship. These on-field successes have lent to significant financial gains for the athletic department, which has now proven its ability to independently generate substantial revenues.

Referenda may be used to measure student opinion on a wide spectrum of issues and cost little to implement. Granted, using referenda for public opinion measurements is unscientific, but it is democratic as well as the best option available for measuring student opinion because of its minimal cost.

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BILL SUMMARY

A referendum question will be placed on the spring 1991 UCSU ballot to measure whether or not students support maintaining the

athletic fee as a source of revenue for the athletic department. The result of this referendum will not necessarily be used for the formation of a formal UCSU position on this matter.

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

SECTION 1: The referendum question so presented in Section 2 will be placed on the spring 1991 election ballot.

SECTION 2: "Should University of Colorado students be required to pay athletic fees (which currently stand at \$33 a semester) to subsidize the operating budget of the CU athletic department?"

YES ( ) NO ( )

This is a non-binding referendum and will not necessarily be used for the formation of a formal UCSU position on this matter.

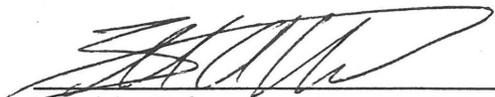
SECTION 3: This bill takes effect upon passage.

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3/14/91 - Passes - Legislative Council - 1st Reading-15-0-0  
3/21/91 - Passes - Legislative Council - 2nd Reading-Acclamation

  
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Malinda M. Matney  
President Pro-Tempore  
UCSU Legislative Council

  
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Julie O'Brian  
UCSU Executive

  
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