

September 26, 1991

35 Legislative Council Bill #16

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO
STUDENT UNION

Sponsored by:

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A BILL

BILL HISTORY

Since the "Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility in Job Decisions" made its debut at Humboldt State University in the Spring of 1987, it has spread to over thirty campuses across the country, including MIT, Tufts, Stanford University and the University of Oregon, Eugene. The purpose of the pledge is to give students the opportunity to consider the impact s/he can have on society, to raise awareness, and to help create an atmosphere where social and environmental responsibility is openly discussed and plays a more central role in our career decisions. The pledge is **purely voluntary** and not based in any particular ideology. It will not be collected; the card on which the pledge is printed will be kept by the graduate.

While Chancellor James Corbridge says he "agrees with the sentiment of the content of the pledge," he has indicated that he will consider incorporating the pledge into future graduation activities in an official manner only if the student body demonstrates sufficient interest. A referendum questions is a logical way to gauge student support, though such a referendum alone would not change policy.

The Graduation Pledge will enhance the "environmental literacy" of the student body. It will further President Judith Albino's goal of achieving a higher degree of sensitivity to environmental issues on the Boulder campus and potentially on the other University of Colorado campuses. The Graduation Pledge also provides students with an important bridge to life beyond CU. It is a tool that will help students 1) to focus their thinking on the actual policies, practices and behaviors of prospective employers, and 2) to clarify their values and facilitate bringing these values to bear in future job and career decisions. Because college graduation is such a significant rite of passage and cultural event, the Graduation Pledge possesses singular ability to spur us to reflection on our responsibility to society and the environment.

BILL SUMMARY

The following question will be placed on the Fall 1991 Ballot:

"Should graduating students have the opportunity to sign the following statement on a purely voluntary basis, as an official part of future university commencement activities.

'I, _____, pledge to investigate and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job opportunity I consider.'

The official place of the pledge in university commencement activities should be determined jointly by university administrators and a committee of students."

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

SECTION 1: The question listed in Section 2 of this bill will be placed on the Fall 1991 ballot.

SECTION 2: "Should graduating students have the opportunity to sign the following statement, on a purely voluntary basis, as an official part of future university commencement activities:

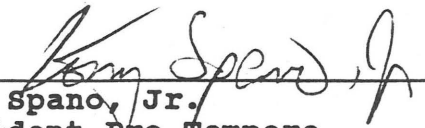
'I, _____, pledge to investigate and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job opportunity I consider.'

The official place of the pledge in university commencement activities should be determined jointly by university administrators and a committee of students."

SECTION 3: This question is not a question of policy, but of opinion.

SECTION 4: This bill takes effect upon passage.


9/26/91 - Passes - Legislative Council - 1st Reading - Acclamation
10/3/91 - Passes - Legislative Council - 2nd Reading - Acclamation



Tony Spano, Jr.
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