

October 24, 1991

35 Legislative Council Bill #22

University of Colorado  
Student Union

Sponsored by:	Representative-at-large	Missy LeClaire
	Executive	William R. Roberts
	Representative-at-large	Todd Chamberlin
	Representative-at-Large	Samantha Levine
	Representative-at-Large	Joe Russo
	Representative-at-Large	Lisa Romero
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	Representative-at-Large	Kristi Mileski
Authored by:	Representative-at-large	Missy LeClaire
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A BILL

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BILL HISTORY

Our tradition of civil rights and equal opportunity and protection under the law is under attack. As citizens, as CU's student governing body, as members of a community of conscience it is incumbent upon us to take up these challenges of our day.

We need UCSU legislators who are more concerned with justice. We need UCSU legislators with the courage to take on the injustices of our day, who can listen to the concerns of every student of any color, ethnic group, gender, creed, religious affiliation, disabled, and sexual orientation, who can hear the cries of those who have no defense, and who will wield the law in pursuit of equality and justice for all.

It is evident from the Unity Walk on Friday, Oct. 11, 1991, that the opposition of student groups protesting the treatment of women, students of color, and sexual orientation issues and concerns on this campus, are not being taken seriously to heart. It appears President Albino and the rest of Central Administration are not as committed to diversity as the student body would like to see.

Women, students of color, and gays, lesbians, and bisexuals on this campus want equal opportunities, equal representation, fair treatment, and the chance to hear their own voices and have them heard. It is the responsibility of the student legislative body to hold President Albino and the Administration accountable for their commitments to the student body.

This bill is to propose and establish a standing committee for diversity. The committee's assignment would be to work with President Albino, the Administration, ethnic student groups and any groups, departments, and/or organizations the committee deems appropriate to fulfill its mission statement.

The purpose of this committee is to create a multicultural university to serve as a vehicle to promote communication among all University of Colorado students, Legislative Council, President Albino, Central Administration, and the Boulder Campus Administration regarding the concerns of every student of any color, ethnic group, gender, creed, religious affiliation, physical ability, or sexual orientation; to act as a check to ensure that the needs of the student body as well as the mission and the goals of the University of Colorado are being carried out.

Assumptions linked to the presence of diversity:

- Increase access = decline in institutional quality
- Increased diversity = financial drain
- Diverse students are "different" from typical students
- Diverse students enter with more deficits than assets

Such assumptions are false and work to perpetuate racism/homophobia/sexism and maintain women, people of color, and gays, lesbians, and bisexuals in subordinate roles within our society.

A multicultural university is one which is genuinely committed to a diverse representation of its membership; is sensitive to maintaining an open, supportive and responsive environment; is working toward and purposefully including elements of diverse cultures in its ongoing operations; and... is authentic in its responses to issues confronting it. This and much more is extremely important to the University of Colorado Student Union's integrity.

As Honorable President Judith Albino in her inaugural speech would put it, "We seek greater diversity not because it is fair, although it is -- but because it enriches our community. We seek greater diversity not because it is sound educational policy, although it is -- but because it enhances the knowledge and experience available to the University. And we seek greater diversity not because it is politically correct to do so -- but because it is right."

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#### BILL SUMMARY

This bill shall create a standing committee for diversity to promote a multicultural university.

The UCSU By-Laws shall be changed in accordance with the passage of 35LCB#22.

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

**Section 1:** That UCSU Legislative Council shall establish and maintain a standing committee for diversity to work with Central Administration, the Boulder Campus Administration, ethnic student groups, and any groups, departments, and/or organizations the committee deems appropriate to serve its purpose... to ensure the commitment the university has made to promote diversity on the CU campus.

**Section 2:** Article VI, Part B., Section I of UCSU By-Laws (Committees) shall read:

The Legislative Council shall establish and maintain an Appointments Committee, a Rules Committee, an Elections Committee, a Student Organizations Committee, an Outreach Committee, and a Committee for Diversity.

**Section 3:** Article VI, Part B., Section 8 shall be added to the UCSU By-Laws to read:

**8. Committee for Diversity**

- a. The Committee for Diversity shall consist of nine(9) members; 1 UCSU Affirmative Action Commissioner, 1 UCSU Executive or 1 UCSU Executive staff appointment (not including the Commissioner), 1 UCSU Representative-at-Large, 1 UCSU member of the Council of Colleges and Schools, 5 students-at-large to be appointed by the Legislative Council.
- b. All Committee for Diversity appointments shall last no longer than 1 year.
- c. The mission of the Committee for Diversity shall be: to create a multicultural university and to provide a much more positive social environment on campus, in which diversity is encouraged, understood, celebrated and respected; to serve as a vehicle to promote communication among all University of Colorado students, Legislative Council, Central Administration, and Boulder Campus Administration regarding the concerns of every student of any color, ethnic group, gender, creed, religious affiliation, physical ability, or sexual orientation; to act as a check to insure that the needs of the student body as well as the mission and the goals of the University of Colorado-Boulder are being met.

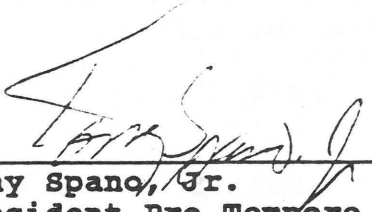
- d. The UCSU Affirmative Action Commissioner shall serve as chair of the Committee for Diversity.

Section 4: This bill takes effect upon passage.

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10/17/91 - Introduced

10/24/91 - Passes as amended - Legislative Council - 14-4-0

  
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