

January 16, 1992

36 Legislative Council Bill #12

**University of Colorado
Student Union**

Sponsored by: Representative at Large
President Pro Tempore
Executive

**Jeannette Galanis
Sam Levine
Malinda Matney**

Authored by: Student at Large
USSA Board Member
USSA Officer
USSA Officer

**Katherine Cornwell
Shana Morrow
Dhruv Singh
Jason Wong**

A BILL

BILL HISTORY

UCSU continued its support of USSA in April after a student referendum supporting CSA and USSA. UCSU, Legislative Council sponsored eight students to attend USSA Congress last August; at that time Jason Wong was elected as an alternate board member to the Asian Pacific Islander Caucus. Dhruv Singh was elected vice-chair and Jason Wong was elected secretary of the Men of Color Caucus. Jason will be attending the January board meeting in California at the campus of the University of California-Los Angeles.

The Legislative Conference, organized by the executive officers and the national board of directors is a legislative training session for students. Legislative Conference is held in Washington D.C. each spring and focuses on the legislative functions of USSA.

The Legislative Conference will be held March 6-9, 1992. March 6-8 will be filled with workshops discussing how legislation affects students, the federal budget process, Reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, lobbying skills, and campus and state organizing. On March 9 students will put their new skills in action when they have the opportunity to lobby their Congressional Representatives; to talk with them about higher education issues of the upcoming session.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill allocates \$1,079.00 + GAR from Central Reserve account #1391120 to send Katherine Cornwell, Dhruv Singh, and Jason Wong to the USSA Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. on March 6-9, 1992.

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

SECTION 1: An amount not to exceed \$1,079 + GAR will be allocated from Central Reserve to fund sending Katherine Cornwell, Dhruv Singh and Jason Wong to

36 Legislative Council Bill #12 - page 2

the Legislative Conference in Washington D.C., March 6-9, 1992.

SECTION 2: A written report shall be submitted by each of the three representatives, both orally and written, pursuant 24ECB#4.


SECTION 3: This bill shall take effect upon passage.

BUDGET

Air fare: \$288.00 + \$5.00 coupons x 3 people
Early registration fee: \$200.00 x 1 person
(if received by February 1, 1992)

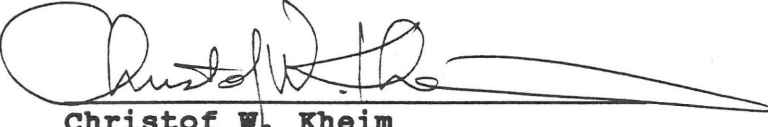
Total \$1,079.00 + GAR

1/17/92 - Student Fee Guidelines Overridden - 11-2-1
1/17/92 - Passes - Legislative Council - 1st Reading - 12-0-2
1/23/92 - Passes - Legislative Council - 2nd Reading - Acclamation
as Amended


Samantha Levine
President Pro Tempore
UCSU Legislative Council


William R. Roberts, Jr.
UCSU Executive


Malinda M. Matney
UCSU Executive


Christof W. Kheim
UCSU Executive

USSA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Legislative Conference Report
Shana Morrow

The **Reauthorization of The Higher Education Act** passed in both the senate and the house. We did not win Pell Grants as an entitlement in either house. This is bad news for all because it is unlikely that Congress will fund Pell grants to the maximum amount without it being an entitlement program. Last year the maximum Pell Grant was \$3,100 however Congress only funded it at \$2,400! The house did extend the number of students who are eligible for Pell Grants by including families with incomes up to \$49,000 (currently students with family incomes above 30,000 are excluded from the program). The house version also *increases Pell Grants to a maximum of \$4500*. The house bill also includes a provision which excludes use of a family's home, farm, or business from need analysis. It also increases the funding levels for the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant program, the State Student Incentive Grant program, the College Work-Study program, and TRIO programs. This bill also provides for funding for a publicity campaign in high schools to encourage students of disadvantaged youth to pursue a college education. Finally, the house bill works to simplify the aid application process. The house version of the Reauthorization bill also includes pilot programs for the Direct Lending program. Lastly, a huge accomplishment for USSA was the inclusion of "The Violence Against Women Act" authorizing \$20 million for rape education and prevention programs on college campuses, and "Student Right-to-Know" bill which would require that campuses report all sexual offenses (not just rape).

The senate version also expands aid, including who is eligible, and simplifies the process. They do not include Pell Grants as an entitlement, because they did not want to lose control over the process year to year. The senate version **only** increases Pell Grants to \$3,600 with a phasing in of \$200. Furthermore, with both of these bills members and senators were concerned of a Bush veto, therefore we have two very 'watered-down' versions of the original bills.

One of the major problems with the senate version, (that USSA will work to change before the joint committee meets) concerns interest rates. The current interest rate on Stafford loans is 8% for the first 4 years of repayment and 10% thereafter. The senate version could increase the interest rate by adopting a floating method. Other issues to be concerned with for the joint committee include: the TRIO program which is increased more in the house version than the senate version, and direct lending (senate version does not include a pilot program).

Currently, USSA is concentrating on a postcard campaign directed at ensuring that the Appropriation's committee increases funding for education in '93. This is especially crucial as President Bush has included many cuts in higher education funding for the '93 budget. Bush's cuts include: a 38% cut from FY '91 funding level of Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants, a 26% cut from FY 91 funding level in work study programs, in FY 92 the federal funding of Perkins loans was \$156 million and would be \$0 for 93 (an estimated **140,000** students would be eliminated from this program), in FY 92 the federal funding of State Student Incentive Grants was \$72 million and would be \$0 in 93 (as many as 8 states would eliminate their state need-based grant programs), would freeze funding for six graduate fellowship programs at \$74.8 million and consolidate them into one program. Overall, Bush's budget would cut funding for federal financial aid by \$95 million. While this program would give the lowest-income students larger Pell Grants it would **eliminate 438,000 students** from the program!

The Department of Education has issued a proposed policy that would make most minority scholarships illegal. The proposed policy states that race-targeted scholarships are legal only in the following circumstances: when used to remedy legally proven discrimination, when Congress specifically creates them, or if a private donor earmarks a contribution for that specific purpose. Minority scholarships constitute only 3% of all financial aid but benefit 40,000 students of color. There is also concern that Native American students who receive scholarships through treaties would also be eliminated.

Another issue that USSA has been working on is the Connors bill (house version). This bill would have broken-down the 'walls' between defense and domestic spending. Unfortunately the bill was defeated in the house 228 to 187. (It was also defeated in the senate, but I don't recall by how much, although I do know it was much closer.) This bill would have allowed for the savings from defense cuts to not go **exclusively** to the deficit but also be used for domestic programs in crucial need. Most likely, this issue will be raised again and USSA will have the opportunity to fight for it. This bill was crucial to the funding of education because it will continue to be extremely difficult to help education recover from the 10+++ years of cuts if these walls remain between domestic and military programs.