

January 30, 1992

36 Legislative Council Bill #14

University of Colorado
Student Union

Sponsored by:	CCS Speaker Music Representative	Edward J. Batchelor Tony Spano, Jr.
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A BILL

BILL HISTORY

As stated in the Colorado Daily of January 17, 1992:

"In 1980, the football team had a record of one win and 10 losses. At the same time, the athletic department was set to overspend its budget by \$1 million.

To get the program back, the regents killed seven varsity sports simultaneously, they imposed a mandatory, \$10 per-student, per-semester athletic fee. That fee was called a "Title IX" fee. It was supposed to meet Title IX of the 1972 Education Amendments; Title IX forbids sexual discrimination in any federally funded educational program. In short, the athletic fee was to bring "equity" to men's and women's sports". (Talbott, C., p.12)

It is obvious that equity has not been achieved with this "Title IX" fee. Even when the original fee was allocated to be only for women's sports, the first year (1981-92) generated \$387,250 in fees of which only \$242,810 comprised the entire women's sports budget. Presently, the athletic fee is still earmarked for women's athletics. This year, the fee generated \$1.5 million while the women's sports budget was \$827,875.

Ceal Barry became coach of the Lady Buffs basketball team in 1983 and has led the team to finish as or near the top of the Big Eight Conference. She is reported to earn \$53,000 annually. Joe Harrington, who was hired about 19 months ago, is guaranteed \$160,000 annually to coach the men's basketball team. Unfortunately, the men's basketball team has finished at the bottom of the Big Eight in five of the last six years.

UCSU has often asked the students through referenda for their opinion on the athletic department and the athletic fee. Here are the questions and their results.

February 1980

Q. Do you favor or oppose increasing student fees by \$30 per year to help fund Cu's NCAA Intercollegiate Athletics, in return for free student admission and the best seating for all CU athletic events.

FAVOR 760 OPPOSE 1878

45 Q. Do you favor or oppose increasing student fees by
\$30 per year to help fund CU's Intercollegiate
Athletics? (Note: If this passes all students
would still have to separately purchase tickets
to football and basketball games)

FAVOR 134 OPPOSE 2521

50 February 1981

Q. Should the Board of Regents continue the assessment
of the student fee subsidy to the athletic department
(currently \$10 per semester)?

55 YES 889 NO 3535

October 1981

60 Q. Do you think tuition dollars should be used to
fund any varsity athletic endeavors including
athletic scholarships?

YES 539 NO 1939

65 Q. Should the University of Colorado Student Union (UCSU)
request and fund an independent and comprehensive audit
of the University of Colorado Athletic Department to
be conducted by a reputable non-University, non-State
agency?

YES 2073 NO 376

70 April 1985

Q. Would you be willing to pay a \$10 or more per-student,
per-semester student fee that goes towards
intercollegiate varsity athletics in order to
retire projected athletic department deficits
and improve the quality of varsity sports at CU?

75 YES 1351 NO 2881

April 1991

80 Q. Should the 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 1197 NO 4328

85 At the UCSU Legislative Council meeting on January 1, 1992,
present University of Colorado President Judith Albino
virtually admitted the fee is in reality permanent. But
the question of Title IX remains unaddressed. The blatant
inequity on salaries is painfully obvious. And the
90 1981-82 difference between the athletic fee and the women's
sports budget was \$144,440. The current difference between
the fee and women's sports budget is approximately \$672,125.
"The rest of the Title IX fee went, presumably, to the men.
Some equity." (Talbott, C., p.13)

100 President Albino suggested the important question is if the students believe the athletic department provides enough benefits to the students and the university to warrant the fee. The following referenda question will ask the members of UCSU a question about the benefits of the fee - not like the previous questions on whether or not the students were willing to pay the fee.

105 As Clint Talbott put it, "Has the program become solvent? Have women's sports achieved "equity"? Do pigs fly?" (Talbott, C., p.12)

BILL SUMMARY

110 A referenda question shall be placed on the Spring 1992 UCSU ballot to measure whether or not students believe the benefits provided by the athletic fee justify its continued implementation.

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

SECTION 1: The referenda question so presented in SECTION 2 will be placed on the Spring 1992 UCSU election ballot.

120 **SECTION 2:** "Does the University of Colorado athletic fee (currently \$33 per student per semester) provide sizable benefits to you and the university to justify its continued implementation at its current level?"

YES () NO ()

125 **SECTION 3:** This bill will take effect upon passage.

130 **1/30/92-Failed as amended-Legislative Council-1-13-3**
