**University of Colorado Student Government**

**Legislative Council**

February 17, 2011 74 LCB06- ITP Responsibility Act

Sponsored By: Gregory Carlson Arts and Sciences Senator

Thomas Benning Engineering Senator

Tyler Goering Representative

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Will Taylor Student Body President

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**Bill History**

In April of 2008, under advisement by Causey Consulting, Interactive Theatre Project (ITP) completed a five-year strategic plan for growth and program development. At the conclusion of the advisement, it was understood that ITP must establish a direction for growth to ensure continued fulfillment of its mission. This strategic approach included an aggressive approach to fundraising, with a “realizable goal of operating under a budget of $5 million.” At the time of the plan’s implementation, seed money for a fundraising position was guaranteed by Housing and Dining Services. The bill, 70LCB08, which obligated the Student Organization Funding Office (SOFO) to fund ITP for five years, stated that its purpose was to “continue support of ITP in the short term, during its transition toward self-sustainability” and “After the five-year bill period, the target goal is for ITP to be fully funded from other sources.” The bill also required ITP to provide quarterly financial updates on their fundraising progress, a requirement that has not been fulfilled until the last fiscal quarter.

Currently, nearly two years or roughly 40% after the completion of the five year strategic plan timeline, ITP has obtained approximately $5 thousand, representing about 0.1% of their total monetary goal. With nearly half of their fundraising period depleted, the potential for ITP to reach their $5 million is extremely bleak at best and most-likely an utter impossibility, particularly in light of the current national and state economic recessions. At the current rate, ITP would have to raise more than about $4,265 a day for the next 38 months in order to achieve its goal. Last year and with the 2010-2011 allocation, ITP had 73 performances with a budget of $219,230. At this rate, each performance, with an average length of one hour, has a cost of over $3,000. 70LCB08 acknowledges the controversial and potentially undesired ramifications of funding ITP with its inclusion of Finance Board’s acknowledgement “that future Finance Boards and Legislative Councils may not prioritize the appropriation of this money, and could easily cut the program from the student fee package.” This inclusion demonstrates that the bill’s sponsors had foresight into the questionable nature and undesirability of the student fee funding of the program.

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**Bill Summary**

This bill repeals 70LCB08 and divorces CUSG from all fee obligations directly or indirectly related to Interactive Theatre Project, to the Student Organization Finance Office for the purpose of funding ITP, or to any other organization for the purpose of funding ITP or any immediate reincarnations of the program for the next two years. This bill does not end the ITP program. Rather, it reduces the ITP budget by about 46%. ITP can void this bill by raising $250,000 of non-student fee and non-tuition dollars by July 1st, 2011.

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

Section 1: This bill repeals and dissolves 70LCB08.

Section 2: This bill relieves CUSG from any financial or monetary obligations and prevents any student fee dollars toward funding the Interactive Theatre Project its affiliates, or any reincarnations of the program that are formed over the next two years.

Section 3: This bill forbids the allocation of any student fee dollars to Interactive Theatre Project during the FY2011-2012 CUSG budget funding cycle. This bill does not affect funding already allocated for the current budgeting cycle.

Section 4: If ITP can raise $100,000 as a permanent addition to their endowment by July 1st 2011, then sections 1 and 2 of this bill shall be considered void, and ITP will be eligible for student fee dollars in accordance with section 2 of 70LCB08, for FY2012-2013 and FY 2013-2014 and the 70LCB08 five year plan will be extended by one year to FY 2014-2015. ITP will utilize $101,061 of the endowment to cover FY2011-2012. ITP will not be able to recoup student fees for FY2011-2012. None of the $100,000 dollars may come from SOR, from student fees or from tuition dollars.

Section 5: This bill takes effect upon final passage by Legislative Council and upon obtaining the signatures of the CUSG Legislative Council President and CUSG Executives.

**Vote Count**

**02/17/2011 Passed on 1st reading 13-1-2**

**02/24/2011 Amended to $100,000 12-0-5**

**02/24/2011 Failed to amend to strike “tuition dollars” 5-9-3**

**02/24/2011 Passed on 2nd reading 12-4-1**

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Carly Robinson William L. Taylor

Legislative Council President                                                 Student Body President

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Peter Swanson Allison Foley

V.P. of Internal Affairs                                                           V.P. of External Affairs