

**University of Colorado Student Government
Legislative Council**

October 27, 2011

75 LCB 05 — VRC

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A Bill to Establish Funding for a Full Time Assistant Director for the Volunteer Resource Center

BILL HISTORY

The CU Volunteer Resource Center (VRC) has been offering volunteer opportunities to students since its establishment in 1965. In 2003 the first professional staff position was created at 1 FTE. In 2008 the VRC was awarded an assistant director position at 0.5 FTE. At this same time the current Director became 0.6 FTE. In 2009 both the Director and Assistant Director positions increased to 0.75 FTE. Since the implementation of the Assistant Director position and the further increase of time to a total of 1.5 FTE in Professional Staff in 2009, the VRC has grown exponentially. Below is a preview of programs offered and growth since fall 2008.

In the spring of 2011 the VRC Director resigned effective June 30, 2011, at which point the Assistant Director was promoted to Interim Director and then permanently appointed the new Director of the VRC, effective August 1, 2011. At this point, due to transitional demand and student demand, the Director position increased from 0.75 FTE to 1 FTE resulting in funding for an Assistant Director to equal that of 0.5 FTE. The Bill History is to show both the growth the VRC has experienced since the last professional staff increase, and to exemplify the current demands the VRC is faced with being unable to meet due to a lack of human capital.

Alternative Breaks: Alternative Breaks works to foster critical thinking, social action, and continued community involvement by combining education, reflection, and direct service on the local, regional, national, and international levels. Students have the opportunity to travel nationally and internationally and volunteer in a local community.

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- Site leader training has expanded from a 1 day site leader retreat to a year-long training program that incorporates Career Services, Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS), INVST Community Studies and CU Gold. Site leaders now plan the entirety of their trip. This allows them to gain budgeting and event planning experience; in addition, this allows for VRC student staff to be used in more efficient ways. There are 13 trips instead of the original 7. Alternative Breaks partners with Alumni Relations, and connects students attending trips with national and international alumni. Alternative Breaks is now a common and well-known program on campus, and in turn, CU's commitment to service is expanding around the globe.

Food and Environmental Justice Week: Food and Environmental Justice Week is a week-long awareness program filled with educational and volunteer opportunities surrounding the subject of Food and Environmental Justice. It was established in spring 2011 and now encompasses veteran VRC programs such as Better Boulder Better World (BBBW) and Buffalo Can Challenge.

- BBBW participation and projects offered have more than doubled since its birth in 2006.
- Food and Environmental Justice Week is held in collaboration with Institute for Ethical and Civic Engagement (IECE) and the Environmental Center.

In response to student demands, the VRC has implemented the following new programs since 2008:

- Poverty Awareness Forum
- Proper Intake
- Give A Day

The above service projects have historically brought great publicity to the University at large, and have reflected well on CUSG.

The time and workload limits on the current professional staff of 1.5 FTE have hindered the VRC's ability to meet increasing student demands. The passage of this bill would allow the opportunity to address the following deficiencies:

Alternative Breaks:

- In the spring of 2010 a disabled student expressed interest in participating in an Alternative Breaks trip. Due to lack of human capital, the student was unable to take part in the program.
- There is increased student interest for more international trips. For example, during the summer of 2011 there were 84 applicants for 20 open positions to Nicaragua.
- Alternative Breaks has had to turn down a majority of these requests due to a lack of human capital. More importantly, RAPS programs and RAs have wanted to plan and lead their own trip, but due to the fact

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that the current Assistant Director position is 50% time, we are unable to meet any of the above student demands.

Give A Day:

- Three RAs, CU Gold, and a student from the Greek system all requested group Give A Day projects. We had to turn them down.

Food and Environmental Justice Week:

- During the Food and Environmental Justice Week, we host many lectures and events, including veteran VRC programs such as Better Boulder Better World, with over 225 participants, and Buffalo Can Challenge, with 10 groups of students. Due to the scale of this event, two full-time staff members are needed to provide planning and oversight for this extremely hectic week.

Office Management:

- Currently directors oversee all office management duties, including: ordering supplies, scheduling, reloading paper, changing ink, answering phones, restocking brochures and other marketing supplies, and etc.

BILL SUMMARY

This bill adds 0.5 FTE for the Assistant Director to the current 0.5 FTE, for a total of 1 FTE. This increases the VRC budget by an amount not to exceed \$30,428 next year to cover the increase in salary and benefit costs.

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

SECTION 1: The Volunteer Resource Center may increase the Assistant Director Position to 1 FTE from the current 0.5 FTE, increasing the budget by no more than \$30,428, to be paid with student fee dollars.

SECTION 2: Legislative Council agrees to permanently add the additional cost of salary, benefits and GAIR, not to exceed \$30,428 to the annual budget for 2012-13, with adjustments in future budget cycles as required by university policy or Legislative Council action.

SECTION 3: This bill is to take effect on July 1, 2012.

SECTION 4: This bill becomes effective upon final passage by Legislative Council and upon either obtaining signatures of the CUSG Legislative Council President and Executives, or the lapse of six days without action by the Executives.

SECTION 5: Given that Volunteer Resource Center faces the following:

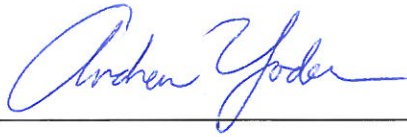
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- a. Fewer than 2 full-time professional staff positions,
- b. Special hiring circumstances from Human Resources process needs,
- c. Unanticipated resignation of professional staff,
- d. Approval by the CUSG Finance Board,

Legislative Council will consider this bill.

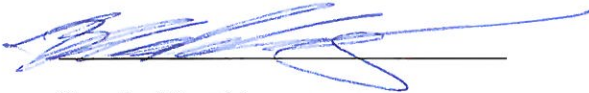
Vote Count

10/27/2011	Passed on 1 st reading	14-0-3
11/03/2011	Amended to add Section 5	Acclamation
11/03/2011	Passed on 2 nd reading	11-3-4



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