



Student Government

UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**

University of Colorado Student Government Legislative Council

April 21, 2014

81 LCR 03 Oppose HB 14-1319 Outcomes-Based Funding

Sponsored by:

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A Resolution in Opposition to HB 14-1319: Outcomes-Based Funding for Higher Education

Resolution History

State funding for higher education has been and continues to be a very serious and pressing need for higher education institutions across the state. In the past, the state has struggled to find significant amounts of money to allocate to universities, and as public universities in Colorado struggle to receive public funding, tuition continues to increase at alarming rates.

HB 14-1319 is reminiscent of President Obama's proposed "College Scorecard", in which he proposes to tie federal funding for higher education to a few different metrics, including the cost of attending, graduation rates, the quality and quantity of various services offered to students, and other pieces that have been deemed to determine an institution as more "successful" than others. This program has not been implemented yet, but the metrics are still being developed and changed to ensure that students do not feel the impact if a university is not maintaining some quality of educational services.

HB 14-1319 intends to have a similar impact at the state level. As it currently stands, the bill creates a method for determining the amounts for fee-for-service contracts that the Department of Higher Education could enter. At the base level, each fee-for-service contract must include an institutional base amount, low-enrollment funding for smaller institutions, research funding, graduate services funding, retention funding, and degree funding.

Resolution Summary

Students are concerned that this bill will situate institutions against each other rather than promoting collaboration, that it will take money away from some institutions and thereby negatively impact the students as a consequence of the institution's inability to perform accordingly to the established metrics. The bill as it stands does not include metrics regarding an institution's ability to keep tuition rates low, which is something that the Student Government would like to see included.

CU would likely be negatively impacted by this bill. Since there is such a large piece of the bill that allocates extra funding to schools that can increase retention and enrollment rates, larger universities that see slower growth in these areas would be at a disadvantage in receiving state funding. The institutions that would benefit most from this bill would be state schools and community colleges in the state of Colorado, at the expense of larger institutions like the University of Colorado.

CU students appreciate the part of the bill that uses enrollment metrics as a means of encouraging universities to bring in more Pell Grant receiving students, and hope that this piece of the bill is one that is maintained in any other funding method reforms that are made at the state level to keep our institutions accountable. Though this is a positive reform in the bill, it does not need to be accompanied by the other metrics of enrollment and retention that limit the scope of higher education funding.

Passage of this resolution will indicate to legislators the need for state assistance and funding for universities in Colorado. As student leaders, we have a responsibility to fight for what will benefit our fellow students, and state funding for higher education has a direct impact on the accessibility of our university to all students.

Should this resolution pass, its authors and sponsors pledge to publicize its benefits and support to the CU Board of Regents, our elected officials, and the public at large in their decision to support the proposed budget while advocating for additional funding.

Whereas: Increased higher education funding is a priority for CU students;

Whereas: State funding for higher education institutions in Colorado has been severely lacking;

Whereas: tuition increases in past years have become significant barriers when it comes to access to higher education at CU;

Whereas: HB 14-1319 creates a method based on outcomes to fund higher education institutions without increasing allocations;

Whereas: HB 14-1319 creates this method without accounting for the potential tuition increases

that institutions might resort to in order to compensate for lost funding;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the University of Colorado Student Government that:

Section 1: It is the view of Legislative Council that HB 14-1319, while moving in the right direction in terms of thinking about methods of funding higher education, could ultimately lead to students paying for a university's inability to increase retention rates, give out more degrees, or increase enrollment.

Section 2: Legislative Council believes that HB 14-1319 would ultimately harm funding opportunities for CU Boulder, and has the potential of increasing costs for CU students. Legislative Council urges legislators against passage of this bill.

Section 3: Upon passage, this resolution will be distributed to the student body, University staff, Inter-Campus Student Forum, Board of Regents, CU-Boulder administration and media.

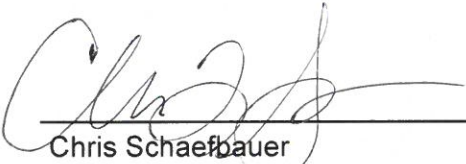
Section 4: This resolution shall take effect upon passage by the legislative council and upon either obtaining the signature of two Tri-Executives or the lapse of six days without action by the Tri-Executives.

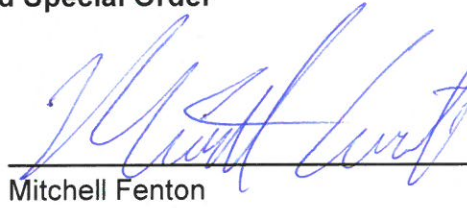
Vote Count

05/01/2014

Passed Special Order

13-0-2


Chris Schaeffbauer
President of Student Affairs


Mitchell Fenton
Legislative Council President


Ellie Roberts
President of Internal Affairs


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