

HOUSE BILL NO. 2177

100TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MOON.

4021H.011

DANA RADEMAN MILLER, Chief Clerk

AN ACT

To amend chapter 173, RSMo, by adding thereto one new section relating to campus intellectual diversity.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Missouri, as follows:

Section A. Chapter 173, RSMo, is amended by adding thereto one new section, to be known as section 173.2161, to read as follows:

173.2161. 1. This section shall be known and may be cited as the "Campus Intellectual Diversity Act".

2. As used in this section, the following terms mean:

(1) "Debate", an event at which two or more participants speak in favor of opposing approaches to the same public policy dispute, after which each participant is allotted time to address and rebut the position presented by the opposing speaker or speakers;

(2) "Group forum", an event at which two or more speakers address a public policy dispute from divergent or opposing perspectives, after which each participant is allotted time to address questions from the audience and to comment on their fellow speakers' positions, if they so choose;

(3) "Institution", any public institution of higher education in this state.

3. The coordinating board for higher education shall establish, fund, and staff an office of public policy events on every campus of every institution for the following purposes:

(1) Organizing a substantial number of debates, group forums, and individual lectures;

EXPLANATION — Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets [thus] in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted from the law. Matter in **bold-face** type in the above bill is proposed language.

18 (2) Obtaining the participation of speakers who represent widely held views on
19 opposing sides of the most widely discussed public policy issues of the day; and

20 (3) Inviting and hosting speakers who can ably articulate widely held perspectives
21 on public policy issues otherwise poorly represented on campus.

22 4. The responsibilities of the office of public policy events shall include, but not be
23 limited to, the following:

24 (1) Organizing, publicizing, and staging debates, group forums, and individual
25 lectures that address from multiple, divergent, and opposing perspectives an extensive
26 range of public policy issues widely discussed and debated in society at large;

27 (2) Inviting speakers who hold a wide diversity of perspectives, from within and
28 outside the campus community, to participate in debates, group forums, and individual
29 lectures, with particular attention to inviting participants from outside the institution who
30 hold perspectives on widely debated public policy issues otherwise poorly represented on
31 campus;

32 (3) Providing, where necessary, honoraria, travel, and lodging expenses to people
33 from outside the campus community who participate in debates, group forums, and
34 individual lectures organized by the office of public policy events;

35 (4) Maintaining a permanent, publicly accessible, searchable, and up-to-date
36 calendar in print and internet-accessible formats listing all events sponsored by the office
37 of public policy events, and all other debates, group forums, and individual lectures open
38 to the entire campus community at a given institution, that address public policy issues,
39 itemizing the title of the event or lecture, the name and institutional affiliation of the
40 speaker or speakers, and the office, institute, department, program, or organization that
41 sponsored the event, excluding those events sponsored by off-campus groups in rented
42 facilities;

43 (5) Delivering a printed and a PDF-formatted copy of the previous academic year's
44 annual public policy event calendar for all institutions, arranged chronologically for each
45 institution, to the public, the governor, and the general assembly by September first of each
46 year, and preserving and making available to the public copies of all yearly event calendars
47 in the libraries of the institution;

48 (6) Making publicly available a complete internet-accessible video record of every
49 debate, group forum, and individual lecture organized by the office of public policy events,
50 posting that video record on the internet within ten in-session working days of the event
51 in question, and maintaining that video record in a fully public, internet-accessible form
52 for at least five years following the date of the event. Video recordings of every debate,
53 group forum, and individual lecture organized by the office of public policy events at a

54 given institution shall also be permanently preserved within, and made available to the
55 public through, the libraries of that institution.

56 5. At its discretion, for any given campus of an institution, the coordinating board
57 for higher education may assign the duties of the office of public policy events to an
58 existing administrative office, so long as an administrator in that office is designated as the
59 director of public policy events for that campus. In such cases, the duties and reporting
60 responsibilities of the office of public policy events shall apply to the director of public
61 policy events and the director's staff.

62 6. The office of public policy events on any given campus of an institution shall
63 report directly to either the institution's office responsible for compiling and reporting the
64 Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) Graduation Rate Survey or to
65 the office of general counsel on that campus.

66 7. All debates, group forums, and individual lectures organized by the office of
67 public policy events at a given institution shall be open to all students, faculty, and staff at
68 that institution and, unless restricting attendance by persons unaffiliated with the
69 institution is necessary to achieve a compelling governmental interest, to the general public
70 as well.

71 8. The general assembly may appropriate funds to each institution for the purpose
72 of providing moneys for each institution's office of public policy events. If no funds are
73 appropriated under this section, each institution shall provide moneys for the office from
74 funds appropriated to it.

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