

February 26, 2020

The Honorable Steve Huebert, Chairperson
House Committee on Education
Statehouse, Room 286-N
Topeka, Kansas 66612

Dear Representative Huebert:

SUBJECT: Fiscal Note for HB 2697 by House Committee on Education

In accordance with KSA 75-3715a, the following fiscal note concerning HB 2697 is respectfully submitted to your committee.

HB 2697 would create the Campus Intellectual Diversity Act. The bill would require the governing body or Chief Administrative Officer at each public postsecondary educational institution to establish, fund, and staff an Office of Public Policy Events for the purpose of:

1. Organizing a substantial number of debates, group forums and individual lectures;
2. Obtaining the participation of speakers who represent widely held views on opposing sides of the most widely discussed public policy issues of the day; and
3. Inviting and hosting speakers who can ably articulate widely held perspectives on public policy issues otherwise poorly represented on campus.

The bill would outline the responsibilities of each institution's Office of Public Policy Events. The governing body or Chief Administrative Officer may assign the duties and responsibilities of the Office to an existing administrative office providing the administrative head is designated as the Director of Public Policy Events. The Office would report directly to the Office of General Counsel. The Act would require all debates, group forums and individual lectures organized by the Office to be open to all students, faculty and staff at the postsecondary educational institution and to the general public, unless there is a compelling governmental interest and restricting attendance by persons unaffiliated with the postsecondary educational institution is necessary to achieve such compelling governmental interest. The bill would include definitions for debate, group forum, and postsecondary educational institution.

The Board of Regents indicates HB 2697 would require all 32 public postsecondary educational institutions in Kansas to establish an Office of Public Policy Events with annual costs to the State General Fund of \$6.6 million to \$10.6 million systemwide. The estimate includes \$3.2 million to \$4.8 million for salaries and wages of 48.00 FTE positions, including \$100,000 to \$150,000 for 1.50 FTE positions at each institution; \$160,000 for operating expenses, including \$5,000 at each institution; and \$3.2 million to \$5.6 million for event and speaker-related expenses, including \$100,000 to \$175,000 at each institution. Any fiscal effect associated with HB 2697 is not reflected in *The FY 2021 Governor's Budget Report*.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. L. Campbell". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and a long, sweeping underline.

Larry L. Campbell
Director of the Budget

cc: Kelly Oliver, Board of Regents