

HOUSE BILL No. 2697

By Committee on Education

2-14

1 AN ACT concerning postsecondary educational institutions; creating the
2 campus intellectual diversity act; requiring an office of public policy
3 events at each postsecondary educational institution.
4

5 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:*

6 Section 1. (a) The provisions of this section shall be known and may
7 be cited as the campus intellectual diversity act.

8 (b) The governing body or the chief administrative officer, if no
9 governing body exists, of each postsecondary educational institution shall
10 establish, fund and staff an office of public policy events for the purpose
11 of:

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

14 (2) obtaining the participation of speakers who represent widely held
15 views on opposing sides of the most widely discussed public policy issues
16 of the day; and

17 (3) inviting and hosting speakers who can ably articulate widely held
18 perspectives on public policy issues otherwise poorly represented on
19 campus.

20 (c) The responsibilities of each office of public policy events shall
21 include, but not be limited to, the following:

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

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

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

36 (4) maintaining and publishing a permanent, publicly accessible and

1 up-to-date calendar that is also accessible and searchable through the
2 internet that:

3 (A) Lists all events sponsored by the office of public policy events
4 and all other debates, group forums and individual lectures open to the
5 entire campus community that address public policy issues; and

6 (B) itemizes the title of the event or lecture, the name and
7 institutional affiliation of the speaker or speakers and the office, institute,
8 department, program or organization that sponsored the event, except
9 those events sponsored by off-campus groups in rented facilities;

10 (5) on or before September 1 of each year, submitting the public
11 policy event calendar for the immediately preceding school year, arranged
12 chronologically, to the governor and the legislature and providing copies
13 of all such annual public policy event calendars to each library of the
14 postsecondary educational institution; and

15 (6) publishing a publicly accessible video record of each debate,
16 group forum and individual lecture organized by the office of public policy
17 events on the internet within 10 business days after the event that is the
18 subject of the recording and maintaining such video record in a publicly
19 accessible form on the internet for at least five years following the date of
20 such event. Such video recordings shall be provided to each library of the
21 postsecondary educational institution.

22 (d) The governing body or the chief administrative officer, if no
23 governing body exists, of each postsecondary educational institution, in its
24 discretion, may assign the duties and responsibilities of the office of public
25 policy events to an existing administrative office, provided the
26 administrative head of such office is designated as the director of public
27 policy events. The duties and responsibilities of the office of public policy
28 events required under this section shall be carried out by such director and
29 the director's staff.

30 (e) The office of public policy events shall report directly to the office
31 of general counsel for such postsecondary educational institution.

32 (f) All debates, group forums and individual lectures organized by the
33 office of public policy events shall be open to all students, faculty and staff
34 at such postsecondary educational institution and to the general public,
35 unless there is a compelling governmental interest and restricting
36 attendance by persons unaffiliated with such postsecondary educational
37 institution is necessary to achieve such compelling governmental interest.

38 (g) As used in this section:

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

43 (2) "group forum" means an event at which two or more speakers

1 address a public policy dispute from divergent or opposing perspectives,
2 after which each participant is allotted time to address questions from the
3 audience and to comment on the opposing perspective; and

4 (3) "postsecondary educational institution" means the same as such
5 term is defined in K.S.A. 74-3201b, and amendments thereto.

6 Sec. 2. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its
7 publication in the statute book.