

House File 2185 - Introduced

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GERHOLD, JENEARY, SHIPLEY,
and WHEELER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the appointment of a director of public
2 policy events at each institution of higher education
3 governed by the state board of regents.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 262.100 Director of public policy
2 events — institutions of higher education.

3 1. The board of regents shall direct each institution of
4 higher education to appoint a current employee to the position
5 of director of public policy events. The director shall report
6 to the office of general or university counsel, as appropriate,
7 at the institution.

8 2. The duties and responsibilities of the director shall
9 include all of the following:

10 a. Organizing, publicizing, and staging debates, group
11 forums, and individual lectures that address, from multiple,
12 divergent, and opposing perspectives, an extensive range
13 of public policy issues widely discussed and debated. The
14 director shall make a reasonable effort to organize a
15 substantial number of debates, group forums, and individual
16 lectures that fall within the parameters described in this
17 section.

18 b. Inviting speakers who hold a wide diversity of
19 perspectives, from within and outside the campus community, to
20 participate in public policy events, with particular attention
21 to inviting speakers from outside the institution who can ably
22 articulate perspectives on widely debated public policy issues
23 otherwise poorly represented on campus.

24 c. Providing, when funding is available, honoraria and
25 actual transportation and lodging expenses to speakers when the
26 speakers are from outside the campus community. The director
27 shall make every reasonable effort to ensure that funding is
28 available to host speakers holding opposing view points.

29 d. Maintaining a publicly accessible, current, searchable
30 calendar of public policy events open to the entire campus
31 community, on the institution's internet site. The director
32 shall make print copies of the calendar available to the
33 campus community. The calendar of events shall include events
34 organized by the director and shall also include public policy
35 events organized by other offices, institutes, departments,

1 programs, or organizations affiliated with the institution.
2 The calendar of events shall include the title of the event,
3 the name and institutional affiliation of the speaker, and the
4 sponsor of the event. The calendar of events need not include
5 an event sponsored by an entity that rents a facility under the
6 control of the institution if the entity is not affiliated with
7 the institution.

8 e. Publishing a document of the previous academic year's
9 annual public policy event calendar for the institution,
10 arranged chronologically, on the institution's internet
11 site. The director shall make print copies of the document
12 available to the public upon request and may collect a fee
13 from the recipient totaling not more than the cost of printing
14 and postage, and shall submit copies of the document to the
15 institution's library for preservation and for public access.

16 f. Making publicly available a complete internet-accessible
17 video record of every event organized pursuant to paragraph
18 "a", and publishing each video on the institution's internet
19 site within ten business days of the event recorded. Each
20 video shall be accessible on the institution's internet site
21 for not less than five consecutive years following the date of
22 the event recorded. The videos shall also be provided to the
23 institution's library for preservation and public access.

24 3. All events organized pursuant to subsection 2, paragraph
25 "a", shall be open to all students, faculty, and staff at the
26 institution and, unless restricting attendance by persons
27 unaffiliated with the university is necessary to achieve a
28 compelling governmental interest, to the general public.

29 4. For purposes of this section, "campus community" means
30 the same as defined in section 261H.1.

31

EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill requires the state board of regents to direct
35 each of the universities it governs to appoint a director of

1 public policy events who shall be responsible for organizing,
2 publicizing, and staging debates, group forums, and individual
3 lectures that address, from multiple, divergent, and opposing
4 perspectives, an extensive range of public policy issues widely
5 discussed and debated.

6 At the university of Iowa, the director shall report to the
7 office of general counsel, while the directors at Iowa state
8 university and the university of northern Iowa shall report to
9 their institution's office of university counsel.

10 The director must make a reasonable effort to organize a
11 substantial number of such events, and to invite speakers,
12 especially speakers from outside the campus community, who hold
13 a wide diversity of perspectives and can ably articulate widely
14 held perspectives on public policy issues otherwise poorly
15 represented on campus, and to pay the expenses, when funding
16 is available, of speakers who are from outside the campus
17 community. The director must make every reasonable effort to
18 ensure funding is available to host speakers with opposing view
19 points.

20 The director is responsible for maintaining a publicly
21 accessible, current, searchable calendar of public policy
22 events open to the entire campus community on the institution's
23 internet site, and must make print copies of the calendar
24 available to the campus community. The calendar shall also
25 include similar events organized by other entities affiliated
26 with the institution. The bill describes the details the
27 calendar must contain.

28 The director must also publish the previous academic year's
29 calendar on the institution's internet site, make print copies
30 available to the public upon request, and submit copies of the
31 calendar to the institution's library for preservation and for
32 public access. The director may collect a fee of not more than
33 the cost of printing and postage from anyone requesting a copy
34 of the document.

35 Similarly, the director must make publicly available a

1 complete internet-accessible video record of every event, and
2 organize and publish each such video on the institution's
3 internet site within 10 business days of the event recorded.
4 Each video must be accessible on the internet site for at least
5 five years and must be provided to the institution's library
6 for preservation and public access.

7 All events organized by the director must be open to all
8 students, faculty, and staff at the institution and, unless
9 restricting attendance is necessary to achieve a compelling
10 governmental interest, to the general public.

11 The bill defines "campus community".