



Bylaw Amendment Re: Approval of Special Campus Guests

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Sponsoring Senator(s):

Co-sponsor(s):

We are seeking to update the USG Bylaws by adding a Section 7: Campus Guest Approval Policies to Article V: The Funding Branch, which provides a process for petitioning to rescind USG funding for special guest(s), while defining criteria for those guests who are subject to scrutiny:

Justification for Amendment:

- Ben Shapiro's campus appearance incited undue violence on the day of his presentation; student protest of his presence prior to the event had no official outlet for review
- Currently there is no specific, codified procedure for checks and balances relating to the approval or denial of campus guests and sponsorship from USG
- USG funding comes directly from the Student Programming Fee, but current policy does not allow for students to offer input with regards to its use for campus guests
- While a significant number of students and student-led organizations have complaints regarding the presence of proposed guests, there is no venue for official complaints
- The current system in place does not promote transparency, as the funding branch has exclusive and private jurisdiction over fund allocations, and proposed guests are not subject by any official USG branch to review or scrutiny
- There is no precedent for administrative intervention for guests who have been approved for campus attendance, but pose a threat to individual students or recognized groups
- Ensuring clarity of approval procedures will allay fears that guests whose presence pose a detriment to a safe and cohesive campus climate may present their views without opposition



Proposed Bylaw Amendment

Article V: The Funding Branch

Section 7: Campus Guest Approval Policies

V.7.A Any proposed guest, including but not limited to celebrities, political speakers, commentators, or concert performers, who is scheduled to appear at a ticketed campus event, projected to draw attendance of 100 people or more, poses a threat to student safety, or requires substantial security detail will be subject to Special Guest Approval.

V.7.B Student organizations seeking USG Funding for guests will be granted, at maximum, provisional approval from any USG funding board.

V.7.C Funding boards must issue public notice of provisional approval, at which point a petition period lasting ten business days will begin.

V.7.C.1 Any student will be allowed to file a petition against approval of USG funds for the guest's appearance to be presented to the Senate upon petition approval. Petitions should be at least one full single spaced page in length and must include the name of the petitioned guest, the reason for petitioning, and the names and contact emails of those presenting and endorsing the petition.

V.7.C.2 Petitions must be submitted to the Speaker Pro Tempore of the Senate before 5pm on the last day of the provisional period.

V.7.C.3 The Speaker Pro Tempore will respond within thirty-six hours to approve or deny the proposed petition on the basis of its adherence to the aforementioned requirements.

V.7.C.4 Petitions denied by the Speaker Pro Tempore on grounds of insufficiency are eligible for resubmission.



V.7.C.5 Approval of petition presentations shall be publicized.

V.7.D Petitions must be formally endorsed by at least two senators; the leadership of three separate cultural assemblies; OR the presiding CDO or CDOs.

V.7.D.1 Petitioners may also collect supporting signatures from individual students or unofficial student organizations.

V.7.E Grounds for petition:

V.7.E.1 persons who have accepted endorsements from hate organizations (groups designated by SPLC, for example);

V.7.E.2 persons who have publicly supported members of hate organizations;

V.7.E.3 persons on record as having publicly incited, supported, or explicitly encouraged violence or harassment (time specification?)

V.7.F Petitioners must present a complete presentation, including the approved petition with accompanying evidence, as New Business during the Senate meeting immediately following official submission of a petition

V.7.F.1 "Evidence" must include *two or more* examples of violent, disorderly, or malicious public conduct, including but not limited to videos, written publications, public speeches, or interviews

V.7.F.2 A maximum of two people will be allowed to present the petition

V.7.F.3 Only the first petition submitted and approved will be eligible for Senate presentation

V.7.F.3.A Any students or organizations wishing to submit an additional petition must coordinate with the original petitioners to present a singular, unified petition, or elect to remain



uninvolved from the petition process so as to prevent redundancy

V.7.G The organization seeking to bring the guest in question may also present during the Senate meeting at which the petitioners are scheduled to appear

V.7.G.1 A maximum of two people will be allowed to present defense to the petition.

V.7.G.2 The organization in favor of the guest will present first; the petitioners will present immediately afterwards.

V.7.H Petitions must be passed with two thirds vote of the Senate:

V.7.H.1 Petitions that receive less than two thirds vote will still be eligible for funding.

V.7.H.2 Petitions that receive two thirds vote or more will not be eligible for funding.

V.7.H.3 A senator may move that funding be permissible conditionally, contingent upon attendance being limited to USC students