

ALEC EXPOSED

"ALEC" has long been a secretive collaboration between Big Business and "conservative" politicians. Behind closed doors, they ghostwrite "model" bills to be introduced in state capitols across the country. This agenda-underwritten by global corporations- includes major tax loopholes for big industries and the super rich, proposals to offshore U.S. jobs and gut minimum wage, and efforts to weaken public health, safety, and environmental protections. Although many of these bills have become law, until now, their origin has been largely unknown. With **ALEC EXPOSED**, the Center for Media and Democracy hopes more Americans will study the bills to understand the depth and breadth of how big corporations are changing the legal rules and undermining democracy across the nation.

ALEC's Corporate Board --in recent past or present

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 - Kraft Foods, Inc.
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 - Peabody Energy
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 - Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
 - Salt River Project
 - Altria Client Services, Inc.
 - American Bail Coalition
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- For more on these corporations, search at www.SourceWatch.org.

DID YOU KNOW? Corporations VOTED to adopt this. Through ALEC, global companies work as "equals" in "unison" with politicians to write laws to govern your life. Big Business has "a VOICE and a VOTE," according to newly exposed documents. **DO YOU?**

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Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education Act

Did you know that an online for-profit school company was the corporate co-chair in 2011?

Summary

Each public institution of higher education must annually report to the Legislature detailing the steps the institution is taking to ensure intellectual diversity and the free exchange of ideas.

Model Legislation

Section 1. {Short title} This act shall be known and may be cited as the "Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education Act."

Section 2. {Legislative declaration} Be it enacted by the legislature of the state of [] :

RECOGNIZING, intellectual diversity is the foundation of a learning environment that exposes students to a variety of political, ideological, and other perspectives; and

RECOGNIZING, colleges and universities should welcome intellectual diversity and the free exchange of ideas as values indispensable to a liberal education, teaching and program development; and

RECOGNIZING, teachers should not take unfair advantage of the immaturity of students by indoctrinating them with their own opinions before the students have had an opportunity to examine other opinions; and

RECOGNIZING, academic decisions, including grades, should be based solely on considerations that are intellectually relevant to the subject matter under consideration; and

RECOGNIZING, members of the campus community who believe they have been treated unfairly on academic matters must have access to a clear institutional process by which grievances can be addressed; and

RECOGNIZING, political and ideological bias in hiring, promotion, and tenure is unacceptable; and

RECOGNIZING, intellectual diversity must be achieved in ways that protect such values as academic freedom, shared governance, and

academic standards; and

RECOGNIZING, faculty, administrators, and the [Board of Regents, trustees, etc.] should take the initiative in meeting the challenge of intellectual diversity; and

RECOGNIZING, there is a high degree of consensus on the principles set forth in a statement entitled, "Academic Rights and Responsibilities," that was issued by the American Council on Education on behalf of thirty higher education organizations; and

RECOGNIZING, surveys revealing ideological imbalance in the classroom, evidence of politicization, and public concern over this issue continue to mount; and

RECOGNIZING, it is the responsibility of governing boards to ensure that institutional policies and procedures promote, for all students and faculty, an open atmosphere in which a range of viewpoints can be freely expressed.

Section 3. {Definitions} As used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires:

(A) "intellectual diversity" is defined as the foundation of a learning environment that exposes students to a variety of political, ideological, and other perspectives.

Section 4. {Higher education intellectual diversity report} The [Board of Trustees, Regents, state coordinating council] shall require each institution under its control to annually report to the Legislature detailing the steps the institution is taking to ensure intellectual diversity and the free exchange of ideas.

(A) The report required in this Act shall address the specific measures taken by the institution to ensure and promote intellectual diversity and academic freedom. The report may, but is not required to include, any steps taken by the institution to:

(1) Conduct a study to assess the current state of intellectual diversity on its campus;

(2) Incorporate intellectual diversity into institutional statements, grievance procedures, and activities on diversity;

(3) Encourage a balanced variety of campus-wide panels and speakers and annually publish the names of panelists and speakers;

(4) Establish clear campus policies that ensure that hecklers or threats of violence do not prevent speakers from speaking;

(5) Include intellectual diversity concerns in the institution's guidelines on teaching and program development;

(6) Include intellectual diversity issues in student course evaluations;

(7) Develop hiring, tenure, and promotion policies that protect individuals against political viewpoint

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discrimination and track any reported grievances in that regard;

(8) Establish clear campus policies to ensure freedom of the press for students and report any incidents of student newspaper thefts or destruction;

(9) Establish clear campus policies to prohibit political bias in the distribution of student fee funds;

(10) Eliminate any speech codes that restrict the freedom of speech; or

(11) Create an institutional ombudsman on intellectual diversity.

(B) The report shall be distributed to the members of the [insert state] Legislature no later than December 31 of each year.

(C) The report shall be posted on the higher education institution's web site.

Section 5. {Repealer clause.}

Were your laws repealed?

Section 6. {Effective date.}

*Adopted by the Education Task Force at the Annual Meeting, July 21, 2006.
Approved by the ALEC Board of Directors August, 2006.*

Related Files

[Intellectual Diversity in Higher Education Act](#) (Microsoft Word Document)

About Us and ALEC EXPOSED. The Center for Media and Democracy reports on corporate spin and government propaganda. We are located in Madison, Wisconsin, and publish www.PRWatch.org, www.SourceWatch.org, and now www.ALECExposed.org. For more information contact: editor@prwatch.org or 608-260-9713.

From CMD: This "model" bill attempts to require "intellectual diversity" to protect against the imposition of any political, ideological, or religious orthodoxy. These protections are framed neutrally but they emerge in the context of continuing critique from the right-wing that universities are too "liberal" or hostile to religious or "conservative" or religiously fundamentalist points of view. Notably, the bill exempts private colleges from these legal obligations. It also seeks to impose a requirement that professors be evaluated based on "intellectual diversity." It also condemnatory toward protests of speakers expressing disfavored views, which might have the effect of obstructing such speakers. It also may have the effect of establishing a kind of affirmative action toward including fundamentalist or right-wing academics on campus in order to satisfy the dictates of required intellectual diversity. It also empowers an ombudsperson to help enforce the mandate of intellectual diversity.