



# EXECUTIVE BRANCH

OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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## Jan Soto

**To:** FAO Chair Dench  
**CC:** Senate President Chinyere Anunobi, Senate President Pro Tempore Slaughter, Senate Advisors Shane Juntunen and Brodie Taylor  
**From:** Attorney General Jan Soto  
**Date:** 09/07/2021  
**Subject:** **Opinion – Diversity Training Requirements**

Chair Dench,

Thank you for reaching out. Here, the question is whether Senators are required to attend all diversity trainings per Senate Session.

The question arises after Senate Leadership scheduled two leadership seminars titled “Diversity Seminar” and “Diversity Leadership Seminar” for the 53<sup>rd</sup> Senate Session. Some concerns arose regarding whether these trainings constituted diversity training or leadership seminars as the absence policy differs. Thus, I will also consider what constitutes diversity training and its differences to leadership seminars.

To the question at hand, Senators are only required to attend one diversity training.<sup>1</sup> But as it pertains to leadership seminars, only two are required.

In the 51<sup>st</sup> Session, Senate passed Internal Bill 51-30 which amended Senator requirements. While making simple deletions to the Diversity Training requirement among other things, the bill includes two subsections under Chapter 309.10, the Leadership Seminar statute. These subsections state:

- A. Leadership Seminars shall be defined as an educational workshop lasting a minimum of (1) hour, and no longer than two (2) hours, that aim to further a Senator’s leadership, educational, or cultural knowledge.
- B. A maximum of 2 leadership seminars may be required per semester (Fall, Spring, Summer).

This section of the bill was not bolded which signified that this was not an intended change. Nonetheless, once a bill is passed and signed, all included sections are the official versions of the statutory chapters included in the bill.

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<sup>1</sup> See Chapter 309.10 (A) of Title III (“All Senators are required to attend a diversity training session.”).



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As Attorney General, I am responsible for implementing signed legislation into statutes.<sup>2</sup> This power comes with its restrictions. If any unintended effects or mistakes are identified in signed legislation after being implemented into statutes, I can only “correct grammatical, typographical, and like errors without the consent of the Student Body Senate.”<sup>3</sup> Regardless of whether Senate intended to implement these changes, I have to implement signed legislation “as is”.

After reviewing every piece of legislation which followed Internal Bill 51-30, these sections were never deleted from statutes. Because they were not implemented when they should have been, they will be implemented into statutes following this opinion.

Thus, Senators are only required to attend 1 diversity training. Nevertheless, Senators are only required to attend 2 Leadership Seminars. Leadership Seminars can discuss diversity and any other topics “that aim to further a Senator’s leadership, educational, or cultural knowledge.”<sup>4</sup> Additionally, signed legislation which includes additional unintended sections will be implemented as written.

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Best wishes,

**Jan Soto**  
Attorney General

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<sup>2</sup> See Chapter 402.1(C)(4) of Title IV (“The Attorney General shall also submit a revised copy of the changed Constitution or Statute to the Director of Communications for publication on the Student Government website.”).

<sup>3</sup> See Chapter 402.1(C)(8) of Title IV.

<sup>4</sup> See Internal Bill 51-30.