

# CSUN CONSTITUTION

## Declaration of Rights

1. Obtain information concerning all public and financial actions, proposed or enacted of CSUN.
2. Attend any official open meeting held by CSUN boards, committees, and officers.
3. Be represented to the Board of Regents through the CSUN government.

4. Petition the CSUN government.
5. Vote in CSUN elections.

The University of Nevada, Las Vegas in general and CSUN in particular cannot abridge these rights. These rights shall not be construed to limit any other rights possessed by the students.

## Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas, herein referred to as CSUN.

## Article II. Membership and Fees.

All registered students of UNLV shall be members of CSUN until the beginning of the following semester. A CSUN fee, approved by the Board of Regents not less than five per cent of the per credit fee, shall be collected for each undergraduate student of UNLV taking seven credits or more.

## Article III. Authority and Structure

A. In accordance with provisions set forth in Chapter 396 of the Nevada Revised Statutes, this constitution shall be the set of bylaws referred to therein.

B. CSUN, to the extent of its authority set forth in these bylaws, is self-governing and independent of the administration of the University of Nevada System, financially and otherwise.

C. All monies transferred by the Board of Regents to CSUN shall be administered by CSUN in accordance with Board of Regents policy.

D. The divisions of the CSUN Government are:

1. The Executive Branch.
2. The Legislative Branch.
3. The Judicial Branch.

4. Any organization or agent within a branch deemed necessary to properly administer and operate this government.

E. The rules of order shall be considered in the following rank:

1. The CSUN Constitution.
2. Bylaws to the CSUN Constitution.

3. Enactments of the Senate.

4. *Robert's Rules of Order*, the most recent edition.

## Article IV. Officers and Election.

### A. Definition of Officers:

1. The Executive officers shall be the President, the Vice President, and the Senate President.
2. The Legislative officers shall be the senators.
3. The Judicial officers shall be the Justices.

B. Candidates for elective offices must be qualified to hold those offices, from the time of filing.

C. Qualifications to hold elective offices:

1. Matriculated CSUN members
2. Many neither file for nor hold more than one office simultaneously within CSUN.
3. A cumulative Grade Point Average of not less than 2.0.

4. Executive officers:

- a. may be elected no more than twice to the same office.
- b. successful completion of 48 credits, the last 15 of which must be from UNLV prior to holding office.
- c. completion of at least six credits of the semester prior to holding

office.

5. Completion of at least six credits per semester with a per semester Grade Point Average of not less than 2.0.

6. Legislative officers must be accepted members of the college they represent.

### D. Elections of Officers:

#### 1. Executive Officers:

a. Filing dates for Executive Office shall be the first ten days of instruction in February.

b. When there are more than two candidates for an Executive office, a primary election for that office shall be held on the first consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in March.

c. A candidate who receives a majority of the valid votes cast in a race shall be the winner of that office.

d. If an office is not won in a primary election, the names of the candidates receiving the largest numbers of valid votes cast, or, in the absence of a primary election, the names of the candidates who have filed for that office, shall be placed on the general election ballot for that office.

e. The general election for Executive officers shall be held on the first consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in April.

f. In the event of a tie in the general election for Executive office, a simple majority vote of the Senate shall determine the winner.

#### 2. Legislative Officers:

a. Filing dates for legislative office shall be the first ten days of instruction in September.

b. The general election for legislative officers shall be held on the first consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in October.

c. In the event of a tie in the election for a Senate seat, a simple majority vote of the newly seated Senate shall determine the winner.

3. In the event the Judicial Council invalidates an election, it shall order a new election.

a. In the event a primary election is invalidated, the Judicial Council shall order a new primary election to be held on a consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction no later than weeks prior to the general election.

b. In the event a general election is invalidated, the Judicial Council shall order a new general election to be held on a consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction no later than weeks prior to the date of installation for that office.

4. A valid vote is one cast by a CSUN member for a registered candidate or referred question.

### E. Installation of Officers:

1. Executive officers shall be installed on the first day of May.

2. Legislative officers shall be installed on the first day of November.

3. Judicial officers shall be installed on the date of their appointment.

4. The Chief Justice shall administer the oath of office to each officer prior to their taking office.

a. No officer shall take office prior to receiving and affirming the oath of office as set forth herein.

b. The oath of office.

c. In the absence of the Chief Justice, the Associate Chief Justice or another Justice of the Judicial Council shall administer the oath of office.

d. In the absence of a Justice, a

Notary Public duly appointed by the Secretary of State of the State of Nevada may administer the oath of office.

### F. Terms of Office:

1. Executive officers shall serve a one year term, from May 1 to April 30. Outgoing Executive Officers shall serve as advisors to their successors during the first month of their successors' terms of office.

2. Legislative officers shall serve a one year term, from November 1 to October 31.

3. Judicial officers shall serve a two year term from the date of their appointment.

### G. Vacant Offices:

1. Vacancies in Executive Offices:

a. In the event of a vacancy in the office or temporary absence of the President the Vice President shall assume the office of President for the remainder of the term or for the duration of the temporary absence of the President with all the powers and responsibilities of that office.

b. In the event of a vacancy in the office or temporary absence of both the President and Vice President, the Senate President shall assume the office of the President for the remainder of the term or for the duration of the temporary absence of the President with all the powers and responsibilities of that office.

c. In the event of a vacancy in the office or temporary absence of the Vice President, the Vice President Pro Tempore shall assume the office of Vice President for the remainder of the term or for the duration of the temporary absence of the Vice President with all the powers and responsibilities of that office with the exception of succession to the Presidency.

d. In the event of a vacancy in the office or temporary absence of the Senate President, the Senate President Pro Tempore shall assume the office of Senate President for the remainder of the term or for the duration of the temporary absence of the Senate President with all the powers and responsibilities of that office.

2. Vacancies in Legislative Offices: In the event of the vacancy of a Senate seat, the Senate shall appoint a replacement to hold office for the remainder of the term.

### Article V. Executive Branch

A. Definition: The Executive Branch of CSUN shall be the Executive Board.

B. The Executive Board shall consist of the President, the Vice President, and the Senate President Pro Tempore and the Vice President Pro Tempore serving as ex-officio, non-voting members.

### C. President:

1. The President shall be the chief administrator of the government and legal head of the organization and shall therefore be responsible for the administration and execution of all Executive actions of CSUN.

2. The President shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of all CSUN entities excluding the Judicial Council.

3. The President shall be empowered to veto, as a whole, any Senate action, within forty-eight hours of adjournment of the meeting at which it was passed, except the endorsement of resolutions, the sustaining of impeachments, the establishment of committees, and the appointment of officers.

4. The President shall be empowered to call emergency sessions of the Senate.

5. The President shall present a State of the Campus Address at the first Senate meeting of the Fall and Spring semesters as defined by the academic catalog.

D. Vice President:

1. The Vice President shall assist the President in the administration and execution of Executive actions of CSUN.

2. The Vice President shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of all CSUN entities excluding the Judicial Council.

3. The Vice President shall act as liaison between the Judicial Council and the Executive Board.

4. The Vice President shall perform all other duties delegated by the Senate.

5. The Senate President shall administer to, execute for, and preside over the Senate, shall be the spokesperson for the Legislative Branch of CSUN and shall act as liaison between the Legislative and Executive branches of CSUN.

6. The Senate President shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of all CSUN entities excluding the Judicial Council.

7. The Senate President shall be responsible for publicizing the agendas and maintaining the minutes of the Senate meetings.

8. The Senate President shall be responsible for maintaining adequate facilities for those wishing to attend Senate meetings.

9. The Senate President shall ensure that all motions passed by the Senate in no way conflict with the Constitution or its bylaws.

10. The Senate President shall be empowered to assign excused and unexcused absences to Senators for Senate meetings.

11. The Senate President shall be empowered to call emergency meetings of the Senate.

12. The Senate President shall perform all other duties delegated by the Senate.

F. Vice President Pro Tempore:

1. The Vice President Pro Tempore shall assist the Vice President.

2. The Vice President Pro Tempore shall be nominated by the Executive board subject to approval by the Senate.

3. The Vice President Pro Tempore must meet the eligibility requirements for the office of Vice President.

4. The Vice President Pro Tempore shall perform all other duties delegated by the Senate.

G. Executive Board:

1. The Executive Board shall have general powers of administration, review and recommendation.

2. The Chair of the Executive Board shall be the CSUN President.

3. The Executive Board shall nominate candidates for all appointed positions unless otherwise specified in the Constitution or its bylaws.

4. The Executive Board shall specify the duties of all CSUN officials that they appoint or nominate provided those duties do not conflict with the Constitution or its bylaws.

5. The Executive Board shall allocate Regents' Grants-in-aid, in conjunction with CSUN funds, equal to the cost of tuition and fees to three CSUN offices.

6. The Executive Board shall

nominate candidates for the positions of Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice from among the Justices serving on the Council.

7. The Executive Board shall examine all proposed statutes and amendments to the Constitution and give recommendations for approval or disapproval to the Senate.

8. All contracts with CSUN shall require the signatures of two of the Executive Board members.

H. Remuneration:

1. Each Executive officer shall receive a Regents' Grant-in-aid, in conjunction with CSUN funds, equal to the cost of tuition and fees.

2. Each Executive officer shall receive a minimum stipend of \$75 per month, but in no case shall any officer receive stipends in an amount greater than that received by the President.

3. Outgoing Executive officers shall receive 1/2 their monthly stipend as remuneration during the month they serve as advisors to their successors.

4. The remuneration of the Executive officers is contingent upon their abiding by an employment limitation of a maximum of twenty hours per week, unless that limitation has been waived by the Senate.

5. The Senate shall require the regular attendance of the Senators. A Senator who accumulates three unexcused absences in any six month period within a session shall be dismissed from the Senate, unless the third unexcused absence shall be considered as the first item of business following Roll Call of the next regular meeting of the Senate after the third unexcused absence was issued.

6. The Senate shall require a quorum of two-thirds of the current Senate membership.

7. Neither proxy votes nor absentee ballots are permitted during Senate meeting.

8. The Senate shall maintain records through a Senate Secretary.

9. The Senate shall elect, from among its members, a Senate President Pro Tempore.

10. The Senate President Pro Tempore shall serve as parliamentarian for the Senate.

11. The Senate may, by a two-thirds vote, remove the Senate President Pro Tempore and reopen the position for nominations from the floor.

12. No Senate shall elect a Senate President Pro Tempore to serve in a session other than its own.

13. The Senate President Pro Tempore must meet the eligibility requirements for the office of Senate President.

14. The Council shall consist of five to seven voting members.

15. The Council shall not render any decision unless at least five Justices are present.

16. Eligibility: To be eligible for appointment to the Council, a student must be a matriculated CSUN member, have an overall Grade Point Average of not less than 2.75; to maintain membership on the council.

17. The Council shall have the authority to:

a. issue directives to CSUN officers and officials, making them legally binding on CSUN.

b. initiate, amend, rescind, and waive operating policies of all CSUN entities except the Executive Board and the Judicial Council.

c. establish standing and ad hoc committees.

d. open nominations and appoint nominees for vacant Senate seats.

e. amend the terms of office for the directors, members, and advisors of CSUN entities unless that term of office is specified in the Constitution.

f. override the assignment of a Senator's third unexcused absence.

g. The Senate, by a majority vote, shall be empowered to:

a. issue directives to CSUN officers and officials,

b. adopt resolutions,

c. appoint or disapprove nominees of the Executive Board and for Editors-in-Chief. All appointed nominees shall be officials of CSUN.

d. rescind permission given to the Executive Board to make expenditures without specific Senate approval.

e. approve or disapprove the annual CSUN budget.

f. approve legal agreements between CSUN and any other parties, making them legally binding on CSUN.

g. initiate, amend, rescind, and waive operating policies of all CSUN entities except the Executive Board and the Judicial Council.

h. establish standing and ad hoc committees.

i. open nominations and appoint nominees for vacant Senate seats.

D. Rules:

1. The Senate shall require the regular attendance of the Senators. A Senator who accumulates three unexcused absences in any six month period within a session shall be dismissed from the Senate, unless the third unexcused absence shall be considered as the first item of business following Roll Call of the next regular meeting of the Senate after the third unexcused absence was issued.

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