



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**CONSOLIDATED STUDENTS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA,
LAS VEGAS**
54th Legislative Session

SENATE BILL 54-23

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CSUN CONSTITUTION

Bill Number: SB 54-23

Authors of Legislation: Kevin Leon-Martinez, CSUN Attorney General for the 53rd Executive Board
Sponsor of Legislation: Internal Affairs Committee

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada (CSUN) represents all 25,000+ undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Nevada Las Vegas; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, under the authority of CSUN Constitution VI.D.01, is “empowered to enact any legislation that falls under the jurisdiction of CSUN”; **AND**

WHEREAS, it is the duty of this government to maintain and improve the governing documents for the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada upon the recognition of necessity to do so; **AND**

WHEREAS, CSUN must actively ensure that our governing documents remain current and accurately reflect our student government; **AND**

WHEREAS, ARTICLE IV of the CSUN Constitution does not accurately reflect the NSHE Board of Regents' recent amendment to their handbook; **AND**

WHEREAS, ARTICLE IX of the CSUN Constitution, as currently written, does not allow for a more efficient and effective system of funding, which is one of the duties of this government; **AND**

WHEREAS, ARTICLE X of the CSUN Constitution, as currently written, does not accurately reflect the rights of all CSUN officers and officials; **FURTHERMORE**

WHEREAS, ARTICLE X of the CSUN Constitution does not provide the Senate President and Chief Justice an efficient means of removing nonfeasance members, **AND**

WHEREAS, ARTICLE XI of the CSUN Constitution, as currently written, does not accurately reflect the rules and procedures of this government’s recall process; **AND**

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, with additions marked in green italics and deletions marked in red strikethrough, Constitution ARTICLE IV shall reflect the amendments from ADDENDUM A, Constitution ARTICLES IV, Constitution ARTICLE IX shall reflect the amendments from ADDENDUM B, Constitution



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ARTICLE X shall reflect the amendments from ADDENDUM C, and Constitution ARTICLE XI shall reflect the amendments from ADDENDUM D.

ADDENDUM A

I. Should the CSUN Constitution be amended to change the minimum number of credits required to hold office from Seven to Six?

Explanation:

The NSHE Board of Regents amended its handbook, instituting a change in eligibility for student government. The handbook in previous editions, particularly Title 4, Chapter 17, Section 20, allowed for all students registering for seven credits or more to be members of their respective student governments (CSUN in UNLV's context). Their amendment to this chapter (Section 21), allows for all students at state universities to be members of their respective student governments, doing away with such a requirement.

Currently, the CSUN constitution only allows for those who have completed seven credits prior to their ascension to office, and those completing seven credits during the semester they are in office, to hold positions within CSUN. This requirement had been established to comply with the aforementioned policies in the NSHE Board of Regents Handbook. However, the change in the Regents' policy allows for a similar change to occur within CSUN.

Considering such a change for CSUN is complicated nonetheless. The Board of Regents policy dictates membership in student governments, not the ability to hold office but only the ability to vote. The change by the Board of Regents allows for any undergraduate member of the University to vote in CSUN Elections or otherwise act as a constituent of the student government. While the change here decreases the requirement to hold a position within the student government. The latter is allowed by the former, but they are nonetheless fundamentally different.

Argument For: Decreasing the requirement from seven to six credits opens CSUN up to more students. A six-credit course load is simple and usually, two classes, allowing actively enrolled students to participate in their student government.

Argument Against: Any number of required credits cuts part-time or non-traditional students out of CSUN. If a student chooses to take one class or any combination of classes under the credit requirement, participation in student government becomes inaccessible to them. Student employment policies allow for students taking at least one credit to be considered for employment, CSUN should act no differently in dictating who can and



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

cannot participate in student government.

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IV: ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

- C. Qualifications to hold elective and appointed offices. All members of the government of CSUN, at the time of their election or appointment and throughout their terms, shall meet the general qualifications as follows:
1. Shall be matriculated CSUN members
 2. May not file for more than one office in any given election and may not hold more than one office within CSUN simultaneously
 3. Shall be a student in good disciplinary standing with the University
 4. Shall complete at least seven (7) credits per semester at UNLV while holding office, excluding summer sessions
 5. Shall maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 unless otherwise stated in the CSUN Constitution
 6. Executive Officers:
 - a. May be elected no more than twice to the same office
 - b. Shall have successfully completed no less than forty-eight (48) UNLV recognized undergraduate credits, the last fifteen (15) of which must be from UNLV; and (B/R 8/01)
 - c. Shall have completed at least seven (7) undergraduate credits from UNLV in the immediate semester prior to filing for an office. (B/R 8/01)
 7. Legislative Officers:
 - a. Must be admitted members of the college they represent at the time of filing and while holding the seat. (B/R 8/01) (B/R 6/05)
 8. Judicial Officers:
 - a. Shall have successfully completed no less than twenty-four (24) UNLV-recognized undergraduate credits, the last seven (7) of which must be from UNLV
 - b. Judicial Officers must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

Additions in Green and Italicized

Removals in Red and Strikethrough



ARTICLE IV: ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS

C. Qualifications to hold elective and appointed offices. All members of the government of CSUN, at the time of their election or appointment and throughout their terms, shall meet the general qualifications as follows:

1. Shall be matriculated CSUN members
 2. May not file for more than one office in any given election and may not hold more than one office within CSUN simultaneously
 3. Shall be a student in good disciplinary standing with the University
 4. *Shall complete at least six (6) undergraduate credits per semester at UNLV while holding office, excluding summer sessions*
 5. Shall maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 unless otherwise stated in the CSUN Constitution
 6. Executive Officers:
 - a. May be elected no more than twice to the same office
 - b. Shall have successfully completed no less than forty-eight (48) UNLV recognized undergraduate credits, the last fifteen (15) of which must be from UNLV; and (B/R 8/01)
 - c. *Shall have completed at least six (6) undergraduate credits from UNLV in the immediate semester prior to filing for an office.*
 7. Legislative Officers:
 - a. Must be admitted members of the college they represent at the time of filing and while holding the seat. (B/R 8/01) (B/R 6/05)
 8. Judicial Officers:
 - a. Shall have successfully completed no less than twenty-four (24) UNLV-recognized undergraduate credits, *the last six (6) of which must be from UNLV*
 - b. Judicial Officers must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0
- Yes, the CSUN Constitution should be amended
 - No, the CSUN Constitution should not be amended

ADDENDUM B

II. Should the CSUN Constitution be amended to allow for all officials to make expenditures?

Explanation: Currently, the CSUN Constitution requires at least two members of the Executive Board and the CSUN Business Manager to sign off on every expenditure. Additionally, at the start of every fiscal year, the CSUN Executive Board, and Senate outline the budget and appropriations.



For clarification as to why section F under ARTICLE IX has been removed, CSUN used to fund employees through scholarships. However, stipends are now delivered on the first of every month and terminated when an individual leaves office, so it is no longer required for CSUN Officers and Officials to reimburse CSUN for the amount of the stipend proportional to the term of office not completed.

Argument For: This would streamline the approval process for funding. This would mean that when the Senate approves the budget, it would assign approvers to line items. These individuals and the CSUN business manager will approve expenditures for these line items.

For example, the Ways and Means chair and CSUN Business Manager would approve expenditures for Student Organization Funding once that Organization has been approved by the Senate. In addition, the University Initiatives (UI) committee chair and CSUN Business Manager would approve expenditures for a UI event, or the Director of Marketing and CSUN Business Manager would approve marketing expenditures.

Argument Against: This may allow for too much discretion to be given to the specific Officers and Officials assigned as approvers. In addition, it may give less power to the Executive Officers and Officials.



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE IX: FINANCE

- A. The President, Vice President, and the Senate President, or the Senate President Pro Tempore in their absence, shall be the only officers empowered to disburse CSUN funds.
- B. All expenditures shall require the signatures of two one Executive Board members and shall require the signature of the Business Manager or that of his/her agent, in accordance with mutually accepted fiscal procedures established by CSUN and the Office of the President.
- C. All contractual agreements with CSUN shall require the signatures of two Executive Board members.
- D. The President, Vice President, Senate President, and Senate President Pro Tempore shall be bonded in an amount commensurate with CSUN revenues.
- E. Stipends shall expire at the end of officers' and officials' terms of office
- F. Officers or officials who receive stipends from CSUN, who fail to complete their terms of office, shall reimburse CSUN for the amount of the stipend proportionate to the term of office not completed.
- G. CSUN shall maintain a bylaw to outline compensation for stipend positions.
- H. Total CSUN compensation, paid to officers or officials, shall not exceed 22.5% of the total annual CSUN Budget.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

Additions in Green and Italicized

Removals in Red and Strikethrough

ARTICLE IX: FINANCE

- A. ~~The President, Vice President, and the Senate President, or the Senate President Pro Tempore in their absence, shall be the only officers empowered to disburse CSUN funds.~~
- A. ~~All expenditures shall require the signatures of two Executive Board members~~ *CSUN funds shall be disbursed through the approval of two executive officers and/or their designee and shall further require the* ~~shall require the~~ signature of the Business Manager ~~or that of his/her agent,~~ in accordance with mutually accepted fiscal procedures established by CSUN and the office of the President.
- B. All contractual agreements with CSUN shall require the signatures of two Executive Board members.



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

- C. The President, Vice President, Senate President, ~~and~~ Senate President Pro Tempore, *and/or the designee* shall be bonded in an amount commensurate with CSUN revenues.
 - D. Stipends shall expire at the end of officers' and officials' terms of office *or when the officer or official resigns or is removed from office.*
 - E. ~~Officers or officials who receive stipends from CSUN, who fail to complete their terms of office, shall reimburse CSUN for the amount of the stipend proportionate to the term of office not completed.~~
 - E. *CSUN shall maintain a bylaw to outline compensation for stipend positions.*
 - F. *Total CSUN compensation, paid to officers or officials, shall not exceed 22.5% of the total annual CSUN Budget.*
- Yes, the CSUN Constitution should be amended
 - No, the CSUN Constitution should not be amended

ADDENDUM C

III. Should the CSUN Constitution be amended to change ARTICLE X to allow all officers and officials to bring charges to the Senate; additionally, should the Senate President as well as the Chief Justice, be allowed to dismiss officials within their branches on the grounds of nonfeasance?

Explanation: Currently, only members of the Senate are able to file impeachment charges, with this amendment, any CSUN officer (Director, AG, Senator, etc) can bring impeachment charges to be voted on by the Senate against any official ie. Senator, Justice, Eboard, etc. Therefore by amending the Constitution it will reflect the current CSUN practices and rights of all CSUN officers and officials.

In addition, the amendment to section B will allow the Senate President to dismiss senators who do not meet the requirements of the office. With the current Constitution, only the Senate through the process of impeachment can dismiss Senators who do not attend any Senate meeting or fail to follow through Senate rules. Through this change, the Senate President with the consent of the Senate, can dismiss Senators on the grounds of nonfeasance. The amendment to section C will also act as a mechanism for the Chief Justice to dismiss unresponsive Judicial Officers through the consent of the Senate.

Argument For: This will allow for all CSUN Officers and Officials to be able to bring impeachment charges against any official as would be reflected in the amended CSUN constitution which is within their rights. The new Section B will allow for a much smoother process of removal of Senators who fail to fulfill the duties of the office. Sometimes Senators just don't show up and cannot be reached through email or phone. With the current Constitution, these individuals can only be removed through impeachment. Section C will also allow for a smoother process of removal of Judicial Officers who are not actively



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

responding to the duties of their office. In both cases, the Senate will still have to hear arguments by the Senate President and Chief Justice on the grounds for dismissal of a member of the branch. The officer in question will still have the ability to present their case to the Senate during the meeting where the action will be taken.

Argument Against: This could allow for too much discretion for CSUN Officers and Officials and leave little room for checks and balances. For example, we could have an increase in impeachment hearings and/or charges being brought to the Senate. The new Sections B and C will give too much power to the presiding officers of both the Legislative and Judicial Branches. This section will also remove power from the Senate and its self-regulating ability.

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE X: IMPEACHMENT AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- A. CSUN officers shall be subject to impeachment and removal by the Senate on the grounds of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance.
- B. Charges may be brought against any officer by any member of the Senate. At the time the charges are leveled, the Senate shall hear the charges and determine by a majority vote if there is just cause to hold an impeachment hearing.
- C. Impeachment hearings shall operate pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting Law.
- D. Sustainment of impeachment charges by the Senate shall cause impeached officers to be immediately removed from office and barred from holding further CSUN offices indefinitely. (B/R 2/00)
- E. CSUN shall maintain a bylaw outlining the process and procedures to be followed for the impeachment of officers

RECOMMENDED CHANGES

Additions in Green and Italicized

Removals in Red and Strikethrough

ARTICLE X: IMPEACHMENT, *DISMISSAL*, AND REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

- A. CSUN officers shall be subject to impeachment and removal by the Senate on the grounds of malfeasance, misfeasance, or nonfeasance.
- B. *The Senate President shall be empowered to dismiss Legislative Officers on the grounds of nonfeasance with the consent of the Senate.*
- C. *The Chief Justice shall be empowered to dismiss Judicial Officers on the grounds of nonfeasance with the consent of the Senate.*
- D. Charges may be brought against any officer by any *officer or official* ~~member~~



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

~~of the Senate~~. At the time the charges are leveled, the Senate shall hear the charges and determine by a majority vote if there is just cause to hold an impeachment hearing.

- E. Impeachment *and dismissal* hearings shall operate pursuant to Nevada Open Meeting Law.
- F. Sustainment of impeachment charges by the Senate shall cause impeached officers to be immediately removed from office and barred from holding further CSUN offices indefinitely. (B/R 2/00)
- G. CSUN shall maintain a bylaw outlining the process and procedures to be followed for the impeachment *and dismissal* of officers

- Yes, the CSUN Constitution should be amended
- No, the CSUN Constitution should not be amended



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ADDENDUM D

IV. Should the CSUN Constitution be amended to remove Judicial Officers from sections under ARTICLE XI?

Explanation: Since Justices aren't elected they should not be subject to recall and should only be subject to impeachment. Therefore the CSUN Constitution as written does not accurately reflect the removal process for Judicial Officers.

Argument For: This amendment would allow for CSUN's Constitution to be current and an accurate reflection of our student government and how we operate.

Argument Against: This amendment could allow for a vague interpretation that can lead to confusion and misinterpretation of how to remove or impeach a Judicial Officer.

CURRENT CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE XI: RECALL

- A. The Senate shall order a recall election to be held on the first consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction no less than twenty-one (21) CSUN business days from the presentation of a petition to the Senate for the recall of any Executive, or Legislative, or Judicial Officer. (B/R 6/96)
- B. All signatures must be obtained, and the petition presented to the Senate, within forty-five (45) days of the official timestamp on the official CSUN Recall Petition Form.
- C. A recall petition against an Executive or Judicial Officer shall contain a number of signatures to be no less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the number of students who voted in the most recent CSUN election.
- D. A recall petition against a Legislative Officer shall contain a number of signatures from the specific college of the senator in question to be no less than ten percent (10%) of the number of CSUN members enrolled in that college.
- E. CSUN shall have ten (10) CSUN business days to verify the validity of the petition signatures. Only the signatures of valid CSUN members shall be counted toward the requirements of this article.
- F. A recall election shall consist of an affirmative or negative vote, as to the recall of the CSUN Officer.
- G. An officer may be recalled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ballots cast in a recall election, provided at least five percent (5%) of the eligible CSUN membership votes in the recall election. (B/R 6/96)

RECOMMENDED CHANGES



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Additions in Green and Italicized

Removals in Red and Strikethrough

ARTICLE XI: RECALL

- A. The Senate shall order a recall election to be held on the first consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction no less than twenty-one (21) CSUN business days from the presentation of a petition to the Senate for the recall of any Executive, *or* Legislative, ~~or Judicial~~ Officer. (B/R 6/96)
 - B. All signatures must be obtained, and the petition presented to the Senate, within forty-five (45) days of the official timestamp on the official CSUN Recall Petition Form.
 - C. A recall petition against an Executive ~~or Judicial~~ Officer shall contain a number of signatures to be no less than twenty-five percent (25%) of the number of students who voted in the most recent CSUN election.
 - D. A recall petition against a Legislative Officer shall contain a number of signatures from the specific college of the senator in question to be no less than ten percent (10%) of the number of CSUN members enrolled in that college.
 - E. CSUN shall have ten (10) CSUN business days to verify the validity of the petition signatures. Only the signatures of valid CSUN members shall be counted toward the requirements of this article.
 - F. A recall election shall consist of an affirmative or negative vote, as to the recall of the CSUN Officer.
 - G. An officer may be recalled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the ballots cast in a recall election, provided at least five percent (5%) of the eligible CSUN membership votes in the recall election. (B/R 6/96)
- Yes, the CSUN Constitution should be amended
 - No, the CSUN Constitution should not be amended



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

SB 54-23, ADOPTED by the Senate on this ___ Day of ___, 2024

Julia Salangsang, Senate President

Jenny Park, Senate Secretary

SB 54-23, APPROVED on this ___ Day of ___, 2024 by

Makayla Franklin, Student Body President