The Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas

CONSTITUTION

We, the leaders of the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, make it our mission to empower student leadership, advocate for the enhancement of the student experience, provide for fiscally responsible decision making, meaningful dialogue, and demonstrate continued commitment to sharing the student voice.

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BILL OF RIGHTS

A. CSUN members shall have the right to:
   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 Nevada System of Higher Education ("NSHE") Board of Regents through CSUN government
   4. Petition the CSUN government
   5. Vote in CSUN elections

B. The University of Nevada, Las Vegas ("UNLV") in general and CSUN in particular cannot abridge these rights. These rights shall not be construed to limit any other rights possessed by students.
ARTICLE I: NAME
A. The name of the organization shall be the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, herein referred to as CSUN

ARTICLE II: MEMBERSHIP AND FEES
A. All matriculated undergraduate students of UNLV, upon payment of registration fees, shall be members of CSUN until the beginning of the following semester. A CSUN Fee, approved by the NSHE Board of Regents, of $1.97 per credit shall be assessed for each undergraduate credit in which a student is enrolled
B. A committee review of the CSUN Fee shall be required when the total expected CSUN budget exceeds $1,500,000. The committee shall be comprised of the Vice President of Student Affairs, the Student Body President, and five (5) CSUN members

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 articles referred to therein
B. CSUN, to the extent of its authority set forth in the Constitution and bylaws, is self-governing and independent of the administration of the University of Nevada System, financially and otherwise
C. All monies transferred by the NSHE Board of Regents to CSUN shall be administered by CSUN in accordance with the NSHE Board of Regents' Handbook, NSHE Board of Regents' Procedures and Guidelines Manual, and UNLV's policies and procedures
D. The divisions of the CSUN government are as follows:
   1. The Executive Branch
   2. The Legislative Branch
   3. The Judicial Branch
E. The rules of order shall be considered in the following rank:
   1. All federal and state laws
   2. The NSHE Board of Regents Handbook and the NSHE Board of Regents Procedures & Guidelines Manual
   3. The CSUN Constitution
   4. Bylaws to the CSUN Constitution
   5. Enactments of the Senate
   6. The most recent edition of Robert's Rules of Order

ARTICLE IV: ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS
A. Definition of Officers
   1. The Executive Officers shall be the President, Vice President, and Senate President
2. The Legislative Officers shall be the Senators and the Senate President Pro Tempore
3. The Judicial Officers shall be the Justices (B/R 2/00)

B. Candidates for elective offices must meet all qualifications to hold those offices at the time of filing. (B/R 8/01)

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) 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. (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 six (6) of which must be from UNLV
   b. Judicial Officers must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0

D. Election of Officers
   1. Executive Office
      a. The filing period for Executive office shall begin on the sixth (6th) CSUN business day in February and remain open for ten (10) CSUN business days
      b. The offices of the President, Vice President, and Senate President shall run together on one ticket
         i. This ticket shall be voted against other tickets in an election.
         ii. All votes shall be allocated towards a ticket and not towards any single individual for these offices
c. When there are more than two candidates or tickets for an Executive office, a primary election for that office shall be held on the second consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in March.

d. A candidate or tickets who receives more than fifty percent (50%) of the valid votes cast in a primary race shall be the winner of that office.

e. If an office is not won in a primary election, the candidates or tickets receiving the two largest numbers of valid votes cast shall be placed on the general election ballot for that office (B/R 6/03).

f. If there are not more than two candidates or tickets for an Executive office, a primary election shall not be held and the candidates shall advance to the general election.

g. The general election for Executive offices shall be held on the second consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in April.

h. A candidate or tickets who receives a majority of the valid votes cast in a general race shall be the winner of that office.

i. In the event of a tie in the general election for an Executive office, a majority vote of the current Senate shall determine the winner. (B/R 6/03)

2. Legislative Office

a. The filing period for Legislative office shall begin on the sixth (6th) CSUN business day in September and remain open for ten (10) CSUN business days.

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

c. The candidate(s) corresponding to the number of open seats in a race, who receive the highest number of valid votes cast in a general race, shall be the winner(s) of that office.

d. In the event of a tie in the election for a Senate seat, a majority vote of the newly seated Senate shall determine the winner (B/R 6/03).

3. A valid vote is one cast by a CSUN member for a registered candidate or referred question using the ballot provided for this purpose.

E. Installation of Officers

1. Executive officers shall be installed during the first week of May.

2. Legislative officers shall be installed at the beginning of the first meeting held in November. In the event that legislative officers cannot be installed at the beginning of the first meeting held in November, the existing senate shall remain in session until such time as a properly seated senate can be installed.

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

4. The Chief Justice shall administer an 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 shall read as follows:
"I DO SOLEMNLY SWEAR (OR AFFIRM) THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY EXECUTE THE OFFICE FOR WHICH I HAVE BEEN ELECTED (OR APPOINTED) AND WILL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY PRESERVE, PROTECT, AND DEFEND THE CSUN CONSTITUTION, ITS BYLAWS, AND OTHER LAWS OF AND WITHIN THE UNITED STATES AND THE STATE OF NEVADA."

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 and chosen by the Student Body President may administer the oath of office.

F. Terms of Office
1. The term for Executive offices shall be from May 1 to April 30. Outgoing Executive officers may serve as advisors to their successors during the first two weeks of their successors' terms of office (B/R 6/96)
2. The term for Legislative offices shall be from November 1 to October 31
3. The term for Judicial offices shall be eighteen (18) months from the date of appointment
4. CSUN officials who have graduated may continue to serve until the first meeting of the following semester, excluding summer

G. Vacant Offices
1. Vacancies in Executive Offices
   a. In the event of the vacancy in the office or temporary absence of the President, the Vice 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.
   b. In the event of the vacancy in the office or temporary absence of both the President and the 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 the vacancy in the office or temporary absence of the Vice President, the Executive Board shall nominate a CSUN member to fill the vacancy with the Senate approving the nomination. The approved nominee shall assume the office of the 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.
   d. In the event of the 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
ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BRANCH

A. Definition: The Executive Branch of CSUN shall be the Executive Board, the Directors, and all appointed positions that report to the aforementioned entities.

B. The Executive Board:
1. Shall consist of the President, Vice President, and Senate President.
2. Shall have general powers of administration, review, and recommendation.
3. Shall be chaired by the CSUN President.
4. Shall nominate candidates for all appointed positions unless otherwise specified in the Constitution.
5. 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.
6. Shall nominate candidates for all judicial offices including the positions of Chief Justice and Associate Chief Justice, to be approved by the Senate.
7. Shall examine all proposed statutes and amendments to the Constitution and give recommendations for approval or disapproval to the Senate.

C. The President:
1. 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 Branch actions of CSUN.
2. Shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of all CSUN entities excluding the Judicial Council.
3. Shall be empowered to veto, as a whole, any individual Senate action, within forty-eight (48) hours of adjournment of the meeting in which the action was passed, except the endorsement of resolutions, the sustaining of impeachments, the establishment of committees, and the appointment of officers.
4. Shall be empowered to call emergency sessions of the Senate.
5. 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
6. Shall be the official representative for CSUN

D. The Vice President:
1. Shall assist the President in the administration and execution of the Executive Branch actions of CSUN
2. Shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of all CSUN entities excluding the Judicial Council
3. Shall act as the supervisor of the Directors; and (B/R 6/96)
4. Shall perform all other duties delegated by the President

E. The Senate President:
1. Shall administer to, execute for, and preside over the Senate
2. Shall be the spokesperson for the Legislative Branch of CSUN
3. Shall act as the liaison between the Legislative and Executive branches of CSUN
4. Shall be an ex officio, non-voting member of all CSUN entities excluding the Judicial Council
5. Shall be responsible for maintaining adequate facilities for those wishing to attend Senate meetings
6. Shall be responsible for publicizing agendas and maintaining the minutes of Senate meetings
7. Shall ensure that all motions passed by the Senate in no way conflict with the Constitution or its bylaws
8. Shall be empowered to assign excused and unexcused absences to Senators for Senate meetings
9. Shall be empowered to call emergency sessions of the Senate
10. Shall perform all other duties delegated by the Senate
11. Shall meet all of the qualifications for the offices of the President and Vice President in order to assume the position

F. Departments
1. CSUN Departments are the Directors, the Assistant Directors, and respective Board Members

2. The Directors:
   a. Shall assist the Executive Board in managing the various departments within CSUN
   b. Shall supervise the Associate and Assistant Directors specifically assigned to them
   c. Shall be responsible for publicizing the agendas or standing agendas, and maintaining the minutes of meetings for their departments
   d. Shall be nominated by the Executive Board and approved by the Senate

3. The Assistant Directors:
a. Shall assist Directors with the various departments with CSUN
b. shall be nominated by their respective Director, and approved by the Executive Board and the Senate

4. The Board Members:
a. Shall serve on the departmental board to which they have been appointed; and b. shall be nominated by their respective Director, and approved by the Senate

5. The term of office for Directors, Assistant Directors, and Board Members shall be from the date of appointment until the installation of the next Executive Board

6. The Executive Board, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may dismiss Directors. The Senate shall be informed at the next regularly scheduled meeting

7. In the event of a temporary absence of a Director, the Executive Board shall appoint an Assistant Director to assume the directorship for the duration of the Director's absence

8. All CSUN Departments must maintain operating policies, which are to be approved by the Senate. All operating policies remain in effect until amended or rescinded by the Director, with approval by the Senate

ARTICLE VI: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH
A. Definition: The Legislative Branch of CSUN shall be the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Senate, and its committees

B. Senate President Pro Tempore:
1. Shall be nominated by the Senate President from among the senators, and approved by the Senate
2. Shall meet the eligibility requirements for the office of Senate President;
3. Shall serve as parliamentarian of the Senate
4. Shall perform all other duties delegated by the Senate President
5. The Senate may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, remove the Senate President Pro Tempore title from a Senator and reopen the position for nominations from the Senate President

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

C. Senate Composition
1. The Senate shall consist of twenty-five (25) representatives
2. The seats shall be apportioned according to the percentage of CSUN members enrolled in each of the following colleges:
a. Lee Business School
b. College of Education
c. Howard R. Hughes College of Engineering
d. College of Fine Arts
e. Division of Health Sciences
f. William F. Harrah College of Hospitality
g. College of Liberal Arts  
h. College of Sciences  
i. Greenspun College of Urban Affairs  

3. All colleges must be considered by UNLV as a degree-granting academic unit and may be added to or subtracted from by constitutional amendment  

4. Each college shall receive at least one (1) seat  

5. The apportionment equation shall be done as follows:  
   a. College Enrollment multiplied by the Number of Senate Seats, then divided by University Enrollment.  

6. Enrollment totals shall be obtained from the first day of instruction of each fall semester (B/R 8/04)  

D. Powers and Responsibilities  
1. The Senate shall be empowered to enact any legislation that falls under the jurisdiction of CSUN  
2. Senate approval is required to disburse CSUN funds except where otherwise delegated in this Constitution  
3. The Senate shall possess all powers and responsibilities not specifically delegated by the Constitution or its bylaws to any other entity  
4. The Senate, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, shall be empowered to:  
   a. Enact, amend, rescind, and temporarily suspend bylaws  
   b. Sustain impeachment charges  
   c. Refer proposals to the membership  
   d. Approve judicial nominees  
   e. Dismiss officials, unless otherwise specified in this Constitution  
   f. Grant or rescind permission given to the Executive Board to make expenditures of up to $500 without specific approval, provided such expenditures are reported to the Senate at the following senate meeting  
   g. Override presidential vetoes  
   h. Initiate constitutional amendments  
   i. Override the dismissal of a Senator  

5. The Senate, by a majority vote, shall be empowered to:  
   a. Issue directives to CSUN officers and officials  
   b. Adopt resolutions  
   c. Approve nominees of the Executive Board  
   d. Approve the annual CSUN budget  
   e. Approve legal agreements between CSUN and any other parties, making them legally binding on CSUN  
   f. Initiate, amend, rescind, and temporarily suspend any operating policy of all CSUN entities except the Executive Board and the Judicial Council  
   g. Establish standing and ad hoc committees
g. Open nominations and appoint eligible nominees for vacant Senate seats

E. Rules
1. The Senate shall require the regular attendance of the Senators. A Senator who accumulates three unexcused absence in any six-month period within a session shall be dismissed from the Senate
2. The Senate shall require a quorum of two-thirds (2/3) of the current Senate membership. Senate meetings held during the summer sessions and winter break shall require a quorum of fifty percent (50%) plus one (1) of the current Senate membership
3. Neither proxy votes nor absentee ballots are permitted during Senate meetings
4. The Senate shall maintain records through the Senate President’s designee (B/R 6/96)

ARTICLE VII: JUDICIAL BRANCH
A. Definition: The Judicial Branch of CSUN shall be the Judicial Council
B. Composition
1. The Judicial Council shall consist of nine (9) voting members
2. The Judicial Council shall not hear a case, deliberate, or render any decision unless at least seven (7) justices are physically present. For judicial cases heard during the summer sessions, the requirement shall be lowered to five (5) justices (B/R2/00)
C. The Chief Justice:
1. Shall serve as the liaison between the Judicial Council and the Executive Board
2. Shall preside over all Judicial Council meetings
3. Shall be responsible for publicizing the agendas and maintaining the minutes of all Judicial Council meetings
4. Shall be responsible for ensuring that all members of Judicial Council adhere to all bylaws, operating policies, and codes of conduct
D. Powers and Responsibilities
1. The Judicial Council:
   a. Shall interpret the Constitution
   b. May decide the constitutionality of acts of or within CSUN entities when requested to do so by an Executive or Legislative Officer
   c. May invalidate an improperly conducted election
      i. The decision to invalidate an election must be rendered within one week of the election in question.
2. If an election is invalidated, the Judicial Council shall order a new election consisting of no new candidates to be held on the next consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction no less than five (5) CSUN business days from the judicial decision. (B/R 6/03)
a. Shall be responsible for ensuring due process; (B/R 2/00)
b. May act as an arbitrator between CSUN members and entities of the University of Nevada System
c. May consult legal counsel before rendering decisions. Funds may be encumbered for the purpose of legal consultation
d. Shall meet at least once in the first month of each academic semester (B/R 2/00)
e. Shall publish an operating policy at their first meeting of each semester, and present it to the Senate at the first senate meeting in both October and in March (B/R 2/00)
f. Shall have five (5) CSUN business days, upon receiving a case, to accept or refuse to hear a case
g. Shall have ten (10) CSUN business days, upon acceptance of a case, to produce a written decision (B/R 2/00)

E. Advisory Board
1. CSUN shall work in good faith with UNLV’s Vice President of Student Affairs and attempt to formulate a mutually agreeable bylaw for the creation of an advisory board
2. The authority for the advisory board may be held within the office of UNLV’s Vice President of Student Affairs

ARTICLE VIII: PROFESSIONAL CSUN ADVISOR
A. Definition: CSUN shall have a full-time UNLV Professional/Administrative Faculty Advisor ("Advisor") Position. The Advisor shall not be a CSUN member.

B. The Advisor Position:
1. The Advisor will have a recurring 12-month contract of employment and Position Description, both of which will be governed by the NSHE Code; Board of Regents' Handbook and Procedures and Guidelines Manual; UNLV's Policies and Procedures; and relevant federal and/or state law
2. CSUN cannot amend, rescind, and/or modify the contract of employment and/or the Position Description for the Advisor without a two-thirds majority vote of the Senate and the consent of the UNLV Vice President of Student Affairs
3. Members of CSUN have worked in good faith with the UNLV Vice President of Student Affairs and actively participated in the development and approval of the initial Position Description for and selection of an Advisor

C. Powers and Responsibilities:
1. As defined in the contract of employment and UNLV Position Description
2. The Advisor shall be an ex officio, non-voting member (advisory role only) of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial Branches of the CSUN Government
3. The Advisor shall implement Article VII paragraph E of this Constitution to create a CSUN advisory board to the UNLV Vice President of Student Affairs. One role of the CSUN advisory board will be to provide input and feedback regarding the utility of the Advisor Position and/or any proposed changes thereto.

ARTICLE IX: FINANCE
A. CSUN funds shall be disbursed through the approval of two executive officers and/or their designee and shall further require the signature of the Business Manager 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.
C. The President, Vice President, Senate President, 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. 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.

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. 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

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 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 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)

ARTICLE XII: REFERENDUM AND INITIATIVE

A. From time to time, proposals may be referred to the CSUN membership via the Senate in the form of a referendum or via a student petition in the form of an initiative.

B. Referendum

1. Proposals referred by the Senate, also known as referendum, shall be presented to the CSUN membership during the first consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction of any month. (B/R 6/96)

2. A majority of valid votes cast in a referendum shall be required to pass a proposal.

C. Initiative

1. Upon presentation to the Senate of a petition containing the signatures of at least ten percent (10%) of the CSUN membership, and upon verification of the signatures, any proposal requesting specific legislation that falls under the jurisdiction of the CSUN government shall be voted on by the CSUN members.

2. Presentation to the Senate of an initiative petition must take place no less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to a general election.

3. In order for an initiative proposal to pass, it must receive a majority of the votes cast.

4. Voting for initiative proposals shall take place during the first consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction of any month.
5. Legislation enacted by means of initiative proposals may only be amended or revoked by referendum.

ARTICLE XIII: AMENDING PROCESS
A. Any amendments to this Constitution:
   1. Shall follow the procedures set forth in Title 2, Chapter 1 of the NSHE Board of Regents' Handbook, as amended from time to time
   2. Shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate prior to placement before the membership, if the amendment originates in the Senate
   3. Shall require a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the CSUN members voting in a referendum or initiative

ARTICLE XIV: ENABLING CLAUSE
A. This Constitution:
   1. Shall take effect immediately upon the approval of the Chancellor of the Nevada System of Higher Education and shall supersede the prior constitution and all amendments thereto
   2. Shall supersede any conflicting provisions of the current CSUN Bylaws, and such provisions shall be void and of no effect
   3. Shall not be construed to effect areas where currently serving officers and officials would be removed from office. These officers and officials shall complete their terms of office. (B/R 10/8)