



UNLVCSUN

STUDENT GOVERNMENT

CONSOLIDATED STUDENTS
UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA, LAS VEGAS
55th Legislative Session

SENATE BILL 55-26

AN ACT TO AMEND THE CSUN CONSTITUTION

Bill Number: SB 55-26

Authors of Legislation: Jose Ibarra Lira, College of Liberal Arts Senator

Sponsor of Legislation: Internal Affairs

WHEREAS, the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (CSUN) represents all 27,000+ undergraduate students enrolled at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas; and

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

WHEREAS, CSUN must actively advocate and represent the needs of all undergraduate students; AND

WHEREAS, the Senate Body, comprised of elected representatives from all nine degree-granting academic colleges are adhered to represent the diverse backgrounds, experiences, identities, and perspectives which are essential to the continued growth, strength, and success of all undergraduate students; AND

WHEREAS, CSUN must ensure representation for all undergraduate students regardless of any protected statuses AND

WHEREAS, CSUN must ensure all undergraduate students are included in the decision-making processes of CSUN; AND

THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, that the Bill of Rights within the CSUN Constitution be amended to include the proposed verbiage in ADDENDUM A.

ADDENDUM A

- 1. Should the CSUN Constitution be amended to include a provision within the Bill of Rights that ensures representation of all undergraduate students regardless of legally protected statuses? Furthermore, should it add language about an undergraduate student's right to be included in the decision-making processes of CSUN?**

Explanation:

The proposed amendment seeks to add a new provision to the CSUN Constitution's Bill of Rights to explicitly guarantee representation of all undergraduate students regardless of a wide range of legally protected statuses. The wide range of identities provided in the Constitutional Referendum mirrors the text in the current NSHE Handbook, Title 4, Chapter 8, Section 1. In addition, this amendment reaffirms students' rights to be heard, respected, and included in decisions that directly affect their student experience at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. While many of these protections may already exist in university policy, state, or federal laws, incorporating them directly into the CSUN Constitution would reinforce CSUN Student Government's commitment to equity, inclusion, and student participation. This amendment aims to provide reassurance, and a formal acknowledgment of these student rights within the foundational ideas of student governance.

Argument For:

Given the current political turmoil occurring at the state and federal government, CSUN feels committed to uplifting and empowering the voices of all undergraduate students regardless of their background or identity. Incorporating this provision in the CSUN Constitution would create a powerful and symbolic message that CSUN student government highly values inclusion and fairness, and the active engagement of all students.

While similar protections may exist at the institutional or federal level, codifying them within the CSUN Constitution reinforces CSUN's dedication to upholding these principles in all of its actions and decisions. Furthermore, explicitly recognizing students' rights to participate in decisions affecting their student experience helps to promote transparency and accountability,

which are pivotal foundational ideas to a healthy democratic student government. This amendment would not only reflect modern values but also strengthen CSUN's role as a representative and protective body for all undergraduate students.

Argument Against:

While the proposed amendment attempts to promote equity and inclusion within CSUN, some within the constituency may not agree with its inclusion. Given today's political climate, where views can be just as polarizing as other identities, students might feel as if their perspectives aren't being equally protected. There's also the chance that this amendment might be seen as part of a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) effort. While DEI work is meant to build more inclusive communities, it has become a hot-button issue in many places—especially given that the current federal administration has taken a strong stance against DEI-related programs and anything that might imply alignment with them.

Because of this, the amendment could be perceived as politically charged, particularly students or Senators might push back against it—not necessarily because they disagree with its core values, but because of how it might be interpreted in the political context. On top of that, some might argue that the representation that this amendment offers is already covered by existing NSHE policies, state laws, or federal civil rights protections.

CURRENT CONSTITUTIONAL STATUTES

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.
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RECOMMENDED CHANGES

Additions in Green and Italicized

Removals in Red and Strikethrough

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- 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.
- C. *CSUN must represent all undergraduate students regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, color, age, sex (including a pregnancy related condition), sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status or military obligations, disability (whether actual or perceived by others to have a disability including veterans with service-connect disabilities), marital or family status, immigration status, or national origin.*
- D. *All undergraduate students shall have the right to be heard, respected, and included in the decision-making processes that affect their student experience at UNLV.*