



# UNLVCSUN

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT

### CONSOLIDATED STUDENTS

*55th Legislative Session*

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### EXECUTIVE BILL 55-10

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### AN ACT TO AMEND THE CSUN CONSTITUTION AND ALTER THE SENATE PRESIDENT TITLE TO SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

Bill Number: EB 55-10

Authors of Legislation: Senate President, Sharon Flores, Student Body President, Kelechi Odunze

Sponsor of Legislation: Executive Board, Internal Affairs Committee, Pio Rejas, Attorney General

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**WHEREAS**, the Consolidated Students of the University of Nevada (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, 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 CSUN 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**, CSUN’s current positions of Student Body President and Senate President have caused confusion among CSUN and the undergraduate student body; **AND**

**WHEREAS**, The Senate President according to Article V, Section E, Subsection 2 shall be the “spokesperson for the Legislative Branch of CSUN” ;**AND**

**WHEREAS**, Amending and adopting the title of Speaker of the Senate, more accurately reflects the legislative role of the position within CSUN, while reducing confusion between the Student Body President and Senate President;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the CSUN Constitution change all references of “Senate President” to “Speaker of the Senate” and “Senate President Pro Tempore” to “Speaker of the Senate Pro Tempore” as reflected in ADDENDUM B

## **ADDENDUM A**

**Should the CSUN Constitution be amended to alter the Senate President and Senate President Pro Tempore title to Speaker of the Senate and Speaker Pro Tempore?**

**Explanation:** The CSUN Student Government currently establishes two Executive Positions that include President in their title. These positions are the “Student Body President” and “Senate President”. With the similar sounding names and being a part of the Executive Board, it can be confusing for new members of CSUN and the general public to understand the distinction between these two positions. A clarification with the change of the “Senate President” title to “Speaker of the Senate” will better accurately reflect the legislative role of the position. Furthermore, it will provide a better understanding to CSUN and the general public what each position's role in the student government is. If the Senate President title is changed to Speaker of the Senate, it would then follow that the Senate President Pro Tempore title should also be amended to Speaker of the Senate Pro Tempore.

**Argument For:** A change in the “Senate President” title to “Speaker of the Senate” will help clarify the legislative role of the position while distinguishing it from the Executive authority of the “Student Body President” position. Furthermore, it will better reflect how the role operates within CSUN, where the Senate functions more like a House of Representatives. Adopting the “Speaker of the Senate” title will allow for easier communication within CSUN and among community stakeholders.

**Argument Against:** Changing the title from “Senate President” to “Speaker of the Senate” could create more confusion for students. The title “Senate President” is a widely recognized term in many state legislatures and mirrors the U.S. Senate. By contrast, the title “Speaker” is traditionally associated with a House of Representatives style chamber rather than a Senate. Additionally, making a constitutional amendment for a title change could be seen as unnecessary, consuming time and resources better spent addressing other issues facing the student body.

## **ADDENDUM B**

### **CURRENT CONSTITUTION**

#### **ARTICLE IV: ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

##### **A. Definition of Officers**

1. The Executive Branch Officers:
  - a. The Executive Board shall be the President, Vice President, and Senate President
  - b. The Executive Cabinet shall be composed of the positions deemed necessary by the Executive Board and detailed in the bylaws
  - c. The Executive Department Officers shall be composed of the Directors, Associate Directors, and Assistant Directors
2. The Legislative Officers shall be the Senators and the Senate President Pro Tempore
3. The Judicial Officers shall be the Justices

##### **D. Election of Officers**

1. Executive Board
  - a. The filing period for the Executive Board 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 tickets filed for the Executive Board, a primary election shall be held on the second consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in March
  - d. If, in a primary election, a ticket that receives a majority of the valid votes cast in a primary race shall be the winner of that office
  - e. If no ticket in a primary election is elected, then the tickets receiving the two highest numbers of valid votes cast shall be placed on the general election ballot
  - f. If there are not more than two tickets for the Executive Board, a primary election shall not be held and the tickets shall be placed on the general election ballot
  - g. The general election for the Executive Board shall be held on the second consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in April
  - h. The ticket who receives a majority of the valid votes cast in a general election shall be declared elected
  - i. In the event of a tie in the general election for the Executive Board, a majority vote of the current Senate shall determine the winner

#### G. Vacant Offices

##### 1. Vacancies in Executive Board 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 duration of the temporary absence of the Senate President with all the powers and responsibilities of that office

##### 2. Vacancies in Legislative Offices

- a. In the event of a vacancy in the Senate, the Senate President shall collect applications and refer eligible applicants to the Senate for nomination and approval as stated in this article.

### **ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

A. Definition: The Executive Branch of CSUN shall be the Executive Board, the Executive Cabinet, the Executive Department Officers, 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

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

**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

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 12
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 IX: FINANCE**

- 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.

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

- B. The Senate President shall be empowered to dismiss Legislative Officers on the grounds of nonfeasance with the consent of the Senate.

### **RECOMMENDED CHANGES**

*Additions in Green and Italicized*

*Removals in Red and Struck Through*

## **ARTICLE IV: ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS**

### **A. Definition of Officers**

1. The Executive Branch Officers:
  - a. The Executive Board shall be the President, Vice President, and *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~
  - b. The Executive Cabinet shall be composed of the positions deemed necessary by the Executive Board and detailed in the bylaws
  - c. The Executive Department Officers shall be composed of the Directors, Associate Directors, and Assistant Directors
2. The Legislative Officers shall be the Senators and the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ Pro Tempore
3. The Judicial Officers shall be the Justices

### **D. Election of Officers**

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  - a. The filing period for the Executive Board 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 *Speaker of the Senate* ~~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 tickets filed for the Executive Board, a primary election shall be held on the second consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in March

- d. If, in a primary election, a ticket that receives a majority of the valid votes cast in a primary race shall be the winner of that office
- e. If no ticket in a primary election is elected, then the tickets receiving the two highest numbers of valid votes cast shall be placed on the general election ballot
- f. If there are not more than two tickets for the Executive Board, a primary election shall not be held and the tickets shall be placed on the general election ballot
- g. The general election for the Executive Board shall be held on the second consecutive Wednesday and Thursday of instruction in April
- h. The ticket who receives a majority of the valid votes cast in a general election shall be declared elected
- i. In the event of a tie in the general election for the Executive Board, a majority vote of the current Senate shall determine the winner

#### G. Vacant Offices

##### 1. Vacancies in Executive Board 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 *Speaker of the Senate* ~~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 *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~, the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ Pro Tempore shall assume the office of *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ for the remainder of the term or for the duration of the temporary absence of the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ with all the powers and responsibilities of that office

##### 2. Vacancies in Legislative Offices

- a. In the event of a vacancy in the Senate, the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ shall collect applications and refer eligible applicants to the Senate for nomination and approval as stated in this article.

### **ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE BRANCH**

- A. Definition: The Executive Branch of CSUN shall be the Executive Board, the Executive Cabinet, the Executive Department Officers, and all appointed positions that report to the aforementioned entities
- B. The Executive Board:
  - 1. Shall consist of the President, Vice President, and *Speaker of the Senate* ~~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
- E. The *Speaker of the Senate* ~~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

## **ARTICLE VI: LEGISLATIVE BRANCH**

- A. Definition: The Legislative Branch of CSUN shall be the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ Pro Tempore, the Senate, and its committees
- B. *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ Pro Tempore:
  - 1. Shall be nominated by the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ from among the senators, and approved by the Senate
  - 2. Shall meet the eligibility requirements for the office of *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~;

3. Shall serve as parliamentarian of the Senate
4. Shall perform all other duties delegated by the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~
5. The Senate may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, remove the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ Pro Tempore title from a Senator and reopen the position for nominations from the *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~
6. No Senate shall elect a *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ Pro Tempore to serve for a session other than its own

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 12
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 *Speaker of the Senate's* ~~Senate President's~~ designee ~~(B/R-6/96)~~

**ARTICLE IX: FINANCE**

- C. The President, Vice President, *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~, *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ Pro Tempore, and/or the designee shall be bonded in an amount commensurate with CSUN revenues.

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

- B. The *Speaker of the Senate* ~~Senate President~~ shall be empowered to dismiss Legislative Officers on the grounds of nonfeasance with the consent of the Senate.

- ☐ Yes, the CSUN Constitution should be amended

☐ No, the CSUN Constitution should not be amended

EB 55-10, ADOPTED by the Senate on this \_\_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_\_, 2026

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Sharon Flores, Senate President

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Liana Wieand, Senate Secretary

EB 55-10, APPROVED on this \_\_\_ Day of \_\_\_, 2026 by

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Kelechi Odunze, Student Body President