



CONSTITUTION OF THE CREIGHTON STUDENTS UNION

ARTICLE I. Name

The name of this student government shall be the Creighton Students Union.

ARTICLE II. Mission

The Creighton Students Union exists to represent and serve the student community of Creighton University. Through the cooperative efforts of the nine (9) colleges and schools of Creighton University, the Creighton Students Union is entrusted to serve as an advocate and voice for the student body and is dedicated to the enhancement of the educational, social, and cultural environment on campus. The mission of the Creighton Students Union is accomplished through:

- Representing the student body of Creighton University to the faculty, staff, and administration.
- Supporting all Creighton University student organizations to stimulate productivity and encourage members of the Creighton community to contribute positively to the university and greater communities.
- Planning and implementing a variety of activities to meet the diverse needs of the student body and to encourage student interaction outside of the classroom.

The Creighton Students Union supports the Catholic, Jesuit mission of education, service, and the development of the whole person.

ARTICLE III. Organization

Section 3.01 The Creighton Students Union is organized through its Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies & Procedures. The Constitution serves as the foundational document for the workings of the Creighton Students Union government, which is supplemented by the Bylaws of the Creighton Students Union, which is supplemented by the Policies & Procedures of the Creighton Students Union.

Section 3.02 The relationship between the Creighton Students Union and Creighton University is outlined in the Creighton Students Union Memorandum of Understanding.

Section 3.03 Governing documents for subsidiary organizations of the Creighton Students Union are subject to the governance of the Creighton Students Union Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies & Procedures.

ARTICLE IV. Duration

The duration of the life of the Creighton Students Union shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE V. Use of Funds

The assets of the Creighton Students Union are dedicated to support the mission of the Creighton Students Union. No part of the net earnings of the Creighton Students Union shall inure to the benefit of, or be distributable to, its members, directors, or other private persons, except that the Creighton Students Union shall be authorized to pay reasonable compensation for services rendered and to make payments and distributions in furtherance of the purposes set forth in this Constitution.

ARTICLE VI. Membership

Section 6.01 All students in all undergraduate, graduate, and professional schools and colleges of Creighton University shall be voting members of the Creighton Students Union.

Section 6.02 The power to manage the affairs of the Creighton Students Union shall be vested in three bodies of the Creighton Students Union: Executive Committee, Board of Representatives, and Cabinet.

Section 6.03 All voting members of the Creighton Students Union who are full-time students are eligible to serve on the Creighton Students Union government, with the expectation that they are capable of completing the duration of the term to which they were elected or selected, except when otherwise outlined by the Bylaws of the Creighton Students Union. Part-time students are eligible to serve only on the Board of Representatives with the same expectations.

Section 6.04 All voting members running for election as a representative for a particular school or college, both at the time of the election and during term in office, shall be a student in the college or school from which they were elected.

Section 6.05 Powers of the Creighton Students Union voting members shall be:

- (a) To cast votes for elected officials of the Creighton Students Union.
- (b) To recall and expel officers and representatives of the Creighton Students Union as governed by the Bylaws.
- (c) To adopt, amend, and repeal amendments to the Constitution.
- (d) To propose legislation with the cosponsorship of a voting member of the Board of Representatives.

ARTICLE VII. The Executive Committee of the Creighton Students Union

Section 7.01 The Executive Committee shall serve as the primary operational body of the Creighton Students Union government and shall be composed of the president, the executive vice president, the vice president for finance, and the vice president for programming. The advisor, as defined in the Bylaws, shall serve on the Executive Committee in a non-voting capacity.

- (a) The president of the Creighton Students Union shall serve as the chair of the Executive Committee.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall meet weekly and at the call of the president.
- (c) Three (3) of the four (4) executive officers shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7.02 Powers of the Executive Committee shall be:

- (a) To represent and express the wishes and opinions of the Creighton Students Union.
- (b) To execute policy and legislation.
- (c) To administer and budget the funds of the Creighton Students Union.
- (d) To oversee the daily activities and operations of the Creighton Students Union.

Section 7.03 Additional powers of the president shall be:

- (a) To manage the vice presidents and day-to-day operations of the Creighton Students Union.

- (b) To approve of or veto legislation passed by the Board and Cabinet with consideration of the views of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VIII. The Legislatures of the Creighton Students Union

Section 8.01 The Board of Representatives of the Creighton Students Union (henceforth referred to as the “Board”) exists to represent the diverse interests of all students across the university, and shall be composed of representatives elected or appointed by their respective constituency.

- (a) For the purposes of this Constitution, Creighton University’s undergraduate students are defined as students enrolled in any Baccalaureate program. Graduate and professional students are defined as students enrolled in the Schools of Pharmacy and Health Professions, Medicine, Dentistry, Law, and Graduate studies.
- (b) “Full-time students” shall be defined by the regulation of their respective school or college.
 - (i) The number of undergraduate representatives shall be based on the ratio of one (1) representative for every one hundred and fifty (150) full-time undergraduate students. Graduate and professional schools shall have one (1) representative for every one hundred and fifty (150) full-time students enrolled in their school or college. Each will be allocated at least one (1) representative.
 - (ii) Re- distribution of the representative ratio shall be conducted during the fall semester of every third year (2015, 2018, 2021...) based upon enrollment figures. Re-distribution of the representative ratio must take place prior to the election during the fall semester.
- (c) A speaker of the board (henceforth referred to as the “speaker”) shall be elected from and by the Board to serve as its chair. The speaker retains the responsibilities and voting privileges of the position from which he/she was elected. The additional duties of the speaker and election process are outlined in the Bylaws of the Creighton Students Union. The Board shall meet at least twice per month with meetings held on the first and third Monday of the month and at the call of the president or speaker of the board.
- (d) A simple majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.

Section 8.02 Powers of the Board of Representatives shall be:

- (a) To sponsor resolutions and acts governing the Creighton Students Union members.
- (b) To represent and express the wishes and opinions of the student body.

- (c) To adopt, amend, and repeal acts and amendments governing the Bylaws of the Creighton Students Union.

Section 8.03 Cabinet of the Creighton Students Union

- (a) The Cabinet of the Creighton Students Union (henceforth referred to as the “Cabinet”) exists to foster communication and cooperation between the schools and colleges of the university and shall be composed of the nine (9) presidents of the student governments from the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Business, School of Nursing, University College, School of Dentistry, School of Law, School of Medicine, Graduate School, and School of Pharmacy & Health Professions, who shall serve as the voting members of the Cabinet.
- (b) In the event that a voting member of the Cabinet is unable to be present at a meeting, he/she may designate a member of their college or school government to serve as a temporary voting member in his/her stead with the permission of the president of the Creighton Students Union.
- (c) The president of the Creighton Students Union shall serve as the chair of the Cabinet in a non-voting capacity.
- (d) The Cabinet shall meet twice a month during the academic year and at the call of the president.
- (e) Six (6) of the nine (9) voting members of the Cabinet shall constitute a quorum.
- (f) In the case of a tie-vote, the president of the Creighton Students Union shall cast the deciding vote.

Section 8.04 Powers of the Cabinet shall be:

- (a) To sponsor resolutions and acts governing the Creighton Students Union members.
- (b) To represent and express the wishes and opinions of the schools and colleges.
- (c) To adopt, amend, and repeal acts and amendments governing the Bylaws of the Creighton Students Union.

ARTICLE IX. Regular Meetings of the Creighton Students Union Legislatures

Section 9.01 Regular meetings of the Creighton Students Union shall be according to Article VIII during the academic year.

Section 9.02 Special meetings of the Board of Representatives shall be held anytime at the request of five (5) members of the Board of Representatives or at the call of the president or speaker of the board. Special meetings shall conduct business in the same manner as any regular Board of Representatives meeting during the academic year.

Section 9.03 Special meetings of the Cabinet shall be held anytime at the request of three (3) members of the Cabinet or at the call of the president. Special meetings shall conduct business in the same manner as any regular Cabinet meeting during the academic year.

ARTICLE X. Legislation Guidelines and Procedures

Section 10.01 General Legislation

- (a) Legislation shall only originate from a legislature of the Creighton Students Union during the academic year.
- (b) Legislation may only be introduced by voting members of the Creighton Students Union legislatures who have sponsored or cosponsored the legislation.
- (c) Legislation may only be amended prior to the first vote on the legislation.
- (d) Legislation may be reintroduced in an amended form as necessary once it has been declared dead by a failed legislative vote.

Section 10.02 Resolutions

- (a) The purposes of resolutions are to represent the voice of the Creighton Students Union through: a) taking official stances on issues and concerns on behalf of the student body; b) recommending actions to be taken by the university or its subsidiaries; c) commissioning actions to be taken by the Creighton Students Union government or its subsidiaries; d) other purposes at the discretion of the Board of Representatives or Cabinet.
 - (i) A resolution is first introduced within the legislature of its sponsoring member(s). If there is joint sponsorship across legislatures, the resolution may be introduced within either legislature.
 - (ii) A resolution is then subject to a simple majority vote of approval from the legislature in which it was introduced.
 - (iii) If the resolution does not reach a simple majority vote of approval in its originating legislature, the resolution is dead. If the resolution reaches a simple majority vote of approval, it is then forwarded to the second legislature of the Creighton Students Union for a simple majority vote of approval.
 - (iv) If the resolution does not reach a simple majority vote of approval in the second legislature, then the resolution is dead. If the resolution reaches a simple majority vote of approval in the second legislature, then the resolution is presented for presidential approval.
 - (v) If the president signs the resolution passed by both legislatures into action, then the resolution is active legislation of the Creighton Students Union.

- (vi) If the president vetoes the resolution passed by both legislatures, then the resolution is re-presented to its originating legislature in the form in which it was presented to the president, and follows the same procedures outlined in Article X. Sec. 10.02, i.-iv., excepting presidential approval, but requiring a two-thirds (2/3) vote to pass through each legislature.

Section 10.03 Bylaw Changes

- (a) A bylaw change is first introduced within the legislature of its sponsoring member(s). If there is joint sponsorship across legislatures, the resolution may be introduced within either legislature.
- (b) A bylaw change is then subject to a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval from the legislature in which it was introduced.
- (c) If the bylaw change does not reach a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval in its originating legislature, the bylaw change is dead. If the bylaw change reaches a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval, it is then forwarded to the second legislature of the Creighton Students Union for a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval.
- (d) If the bylaw change does not reach a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval in the vote of the second legislature, then the bylaw change is dead. If the bylaw change reaches a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval in the second legislature, then the resolution is presented for presidential approval.
- (e) If the president signs the bylaw change passed by both legislatures into action, then the bylaw change is active legislation of the Creighton Students Union.
- (f) If the president vetoes the bylaw change passed by both legislatures, then the bylaw change is re-presented to its originating legislature in the form in which it was presented to the president, and follows the same procedures outlined in Article X. Sec. 10.03, a.-d., excepting presidential approval, but requiring a four-fifths (4/5) vote to pass through each legislature.

ARTICLE XI. Officer Succession

Section 11.01 If the president is unable to discharge the duties of office or if the office is vacated, there shall be succession to the office by the executive vice president, followed by the vice president for finance, followed by the speaker of the board.

Section 11.02 In the event of a vacancy of the positions of executive vice president, vice president for finance, or vice president for programming an election and/or appointment shall be conducted for that position at the discretion of the president.

Section 11.03 In the event of a vacancy of the position of speaker of the board, the Board of Representatives shall elect a successor from its legislative body.

ARTICLE XII. Judicial Power

Judicial power shall be vested and defined, and suitable courts, on the original and appellate level, shall be created from time to time by the Creighton Students Union president or legislatures. Judiciary matters shall be handled at the discretion of the judicial board of the Creighton Students Union, detailed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XIII. State of the Student Meetings

Section 13.01 The Creighton Students Union shall hold one (1) annual State of the Student meeting on Creighton University's campus during the regular fall academic semester at which voting members of the Creighton Students Union are invited to be physically present. Fifty (50) voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 13.02 Special meetings of the Creighton Students Union members may be called by a unanimous vote of the Board of Representatives, or by petition of five hundred (500) members of the Creighton Students Union, at which time the Constitution may be amended and Bylaws may be enacted or amended.

Section 13.03 At special meetings called by the Creighton Students Union, two hundred fifty (250) members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

Section 13.04 Notice of the State of the Student and special meetings of the Creighton Students Union members shall be given at least three (3) weeks in advance of such meetings in any publicly-accessible forum, and shall be publicized by the Creighton Students Union government. All proposed amendments and enactments to the Constitution or to the Bylaws to be submitted at each State of the Student and special meetings shall be published one (1) week prior to such meetings in a publicly-accessible forum, and shall be publicized by the Creighton Students Union government.

Section 13.05 All voting members of the Creighton Students Union shall be eligible to vote at the State of the Student or special meetings on enactments or amendments of the Bylaws or Constitution of the Creighton Students Union.

- (a) A two-thirds majority vote is required to enact or amend the Constitution or a Bylaw.
- (b) A proposed change to the Constitution must be submitted to the Board of Representatives at least two (2) weeks prior to the scheduled State of the Student and special meetings.

Section 13.06 In order for a proposed amendment to the Constitution to be submitted for a vote at the State of the Student or a special meeting of the Creighton Students Union, both legislatures of the Creighton Students Union must pass a resolution, by a simple majority vote, in which it is recommended that the proposed enactment or amendment be submitted to vote at the State of the Student or special meetings.

ARTICLE XIV. The Crest

The official crest of the Creighton Students Union shall display the following symbols and meanings. The scales of the crest represent justice and equality. The book represents wisdom and knowledge. The star symbolizes higher ideal and light penetrating darkness. The eye stands for spiritual and mental perception, God and the future. The arrows display power and ability to reach beyond set boundaries. The stairs along the lower left side of the crest represents incremental gains in wisdom and knowledge and emotional and spiritual development.

ARTICLE XV. Amendments to the Constitution

In the event of any amendments to the Constitution, as outlined herein, the Creighton Students Union shall immediately notify the Creighton Students Union Advisor of such amendments. Additionally, a hard copy and an electronic copy of the newly updated document will be stored indefinitely within the files of the Creighton Students Union and supplied to the university president and general counsel.