

**Date: October 23, 2018**

**Constitution Change: #18-01C**

**Sponsors:** Patrick Marta, President, Creighton Students Union

**Purpose:** To create ‘Referendums’ as a legislative option to gather the entire student body vote on significant university-wide changes.

**Whereas:** To make decisions that accurately represent the interests of the entire student body on issues of great significance, it is vital to provide a formal procedure to gather student votes to reflect interests of the entire student body.

**Whereas:** Currently, resolutions and bylaw changes must only pass through CSU legislative bodies.

**Whereas:** Constitution changes may only occur at the annual State of the Student Address or by emergency meeting requiring two-hundred and fifty (250) students to meet quorum.

**Whereas:** In order to affect accurate and timely change as the primary student governing body at Creighton University, methods to allow students to input their voice, external to existing procedures, must be established.

**Whereas:** Creighton Students Union-driven changes that do not accurately reflect the interests of the students are antithesis to the mission of the organization.

**Whereas:** Providing opportunities for students to vote promotes greater student engagement in Creighton Students Union and creating change on campus.

**Whereas:** Campus-wide votes provide opportunities for underrepresented student groups to voice their interests.

**THEREFORE BE IT ENACTED THAT THE CONSTITUTION OF THE CREIGHTON STUDENTS UNION BE AMENDED TO READ…**

**To be inserted following Section 10.03 Bylaw Changes:**

## Section 10.04 Referendums

### The purpose of a Referendum is to represent the entire student body voice concerning major university changes by mode of campus-wide vote. This can be achieved by: 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.

### Referendums must be reserved only for significant changes in policy that would have broad impact across campus under the discretion of the Executive committee.

### Proposed referendums must include:

#### An objective summary of the proposal to be used as language for the official vote.

#### The tentative voting date should the referendum pass through CSU.

#### Referendums may be included on the CSU Annual Ballot

### Referendums must be passed through all three bodies of CSU (Board of Representatives, Cabinet, Executive Committee) before being made available for student body vote.

#### Voting to include a proposal as a referendum does not signify support or opposition for the proposed change, only that the proposal is significant enough to be decided by the student body.

#### A referendum is first introduced within the legislature of its sponsoring member(s). If there is joint sponsorship across legislatures, the referendum may be introduced within either legislature.

#### A referendum is then subject to a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of approval from the legislature in which it was introduced.

#### If the referendum does not reach a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of approval in its originating legislature, the referendum is dead. If the referendum reaches a vote of approval, it is then forwarded to the second legislature of the Creighton Students Union for a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of approval.

#### If the referendum does not reach a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval in the second legislature, then the referendum is dead.

#### If the referendum reaches a vote of approval in the second legislature, then the referendum is presented for Executive Committee approval.

#### If the Executive Committee passes the referendum with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of approval, then the referendum is presented for presidential approval.

#### If the president signs the referendum passed by both legislatures into action, then the referendum is active legislation of the Creighton Students Union and arrangements must be made to hold the vote according to the approved voting date.

#### The referendum and relevant information must be announced by the President through a student body-wide official statement at least three (3) weeks prior to the vote date.

#### The objective proposal summary and the referendum document in its final approved form must be included alongside the vote.

#### The referendum requires a simple majority vote by the student body to pass. If passed, the referendum becomes formalized legislation. If the referendum fails to reach a simple majority vote of approval by the student body, the legislation is dead.

#### Results of the referendum vote must be announced by the CSU President to the student body within twenty-four (24) hours of voting close.

#### If the president vetoes the referendum passed by both legislatures, then the referendum can be re-presented to its originating legislature in the form in which it was presented to the Executive Committee, and follows the same procedures outlined in Article X. Sec. 10.04d, i.-iv., excepting Executive Committee and presidential approval, but requiring a fourth-fifths (4/5) vote to pass through each legislature.

Respectfully Signed,

Patrick Marta, President, Creighton Students Union