Constitutional Referendum 2015: Frequently Asked Questions

By what margin did the Senate pass this bill?

The bill to send this constitution to the students for a vote passed the Senate unanimously.

How will it benefit the Student Activities Council?

At every step of the committee drafting process, the Student Activities Council (SAC) and the committee were in contact to ensure that this constitution would be met with their approval. To that end, their constitution has been almost entirely incorporated into the constitution as an article and the SAC gains the distinction of serving as the Programming Department of the new Student Government Association (SGA). Furthermore, as a part of the SGA, they will enjoy both the protections that this brings as well as financial support for their various programs benefiting student life on campus.

How will this benefit the Student Government?

For starters, as previously mentioned, the Student Government (SG) will become a Student Government Association (SGA). The difference here is that under an SGA, all student groups would enjoy the equal protection of rights and privileges that an SG is incapable of enforcing.

Furthermore, this constitution establishes a system by which the SGA can facilitate interaction and communicate among its own departments for better efficiency in addition to (and most importantly) allowing student groups more opportunities for active involvement in guiding policy on campus.

Why is this necessary?

Frankly, this is a project that various members of the SG have been trying to get off the ground for years. The current constitution has no statement that it would not allow discrimination of students, much less the means to enforce such a clause. The students, as of now, have no means by which to bring their suggestions or concerns to the SG save for carving time out of their schedules to speak at Senate open forums on Tuesday Evenings. Finally, should student groups have a disagreement there is no means for them to have their dispute settled by any binding authority.
What are the major changes?

This new constitution, in its opening article, clearly states that the SGA will not engage or tolerate discrimination at the University of New Orleans. The SGA would be empowered to ensure that student groups within the SGA abide by these protections for students.

One of the departments to be created, the Privateer Council, would serve as an official forum in which the interests and concerns of all student groups in the SGA would meet and discuss to guide SGA policy at the University of New Orleans.

The SGA Supreme Court would be given the authority to hear disputes between student groups and come to an impartial judgment in a fair manner allowing students to have control of their justice on campus.

Who wrote it?

The Committee on Constitutional Reform was comprised of members of the Executive (President David Teagle and Vice President Jessica Willis) and Legislative Branches (Senators Chance Aucoin, Joy Ballard, and Charles Hollis) with additional input from members of the Judicial Branch (Chief Justice Darius Miner and Presiding Justice Shawn Waltz) as well as various other Senators.

When is the vote and how will it take place?

The vote will be held on the days of May 4th-May 7th online via email.

How does this benefit UNO students?

This constitution will give students a greater degree of involvement and ownership of student government and ensures that they will enjoy the same rights, privileges and protections as UNO students.

Have more questions?
Contact us at sg@uno.edu