



Student Senate

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STUDENT SENATE BILL 2022-1020

TITLE: Senate Meeting Modernization and Reform Act of 2022

AUTHOR(S): Judiciary Chairman John Brinkman

SPONSORS: Judiciary Vice-Chairman Mason Solomon, Senator Mara Vaknin, Senator Julia Haley, Senator Taylor Soukup, Member-at-Large Jacey Cable, Senator Jagger Leach, Senator Sidney Ruedas

RULE I
OFFICERS OF THE SENATE

(AMENDED: 2011-116, 2014-106, 2016-117, 2019-124, 2021-1003)

1. Senate President:

a. Elections:

The President of the Senate will be elected at the first meeting of the Senate following the validation of Senate elections results each Fall and Spring, or whenever the office otherwise becomes vacant. After nominations from the floor have closed, each nominee will have five minutes to address the body, followed by a five-minute question and answer period. The President of the Senate will be elected by roll call ballot from all Senators present and voting. A majority of all votes cast will be required to win the election. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, the Senate will hold a run-off election between the two candidates that received the greatest number of votes.

b. Powers and Duties:

- i. The President of the Senate will be the chief executive and administrative officer of the Senate.
- ii. The President of the Senate will direct the legislative processes of the Senate.
- iii. The President of the Senate will hold the chair at meetings of the Senate.
- iv. The President of the Senate will preserve parliamentary law, maintain the decorum of meetings, and will serve as a neutral arbiter of the Senate.
- v. The President of the Senate will enforce the Rules and Procedures of the Senate.
- vi. The President of the Senate will issue subpoenas and/or subpoenas duces tecum to Student Body Officers, Officials, Senators, and officers of Student Government-funded organizations on behalf of the Senate in cases of investigations.

- vii. The President of the Senate or the President's designee may administer oaths to Student Body Officers, Officials, Senators, and officers of Student Government-funded organizations in cases of investigations.
- viii. The President of the Senate may issue warnings to Senators for disruptive conduct during meetings and any Senator who has received more than two warnings from the meeting will be considered absent. A Senator who is considered absent under this procedure will receive one-half absence for each roll call vote they miss up to one absence for the meeting.
- ix. The President of the Senate will submit an end of session transition report at the end of each Fall and Spring session to the Senate Secretary that will detail the activities of that session and offer suggestions to future Senate Presidents.
- x. The President of the Senate will have all other powers and duties listed in these Rules and Procedures.

2. Senate President Pro Tempore:

a. Elections:

The President Pro Tempore of the Senate will be elected in the same manner and at the same time as the President of the Senate, or whenever the office otherwise becomes vacant.

b. Powers and Duties:

- i. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate will serve as the Chair of the Senate whenever the elected Senate President is absent from the chair.
- ii. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate will assist the President of the Senate in fulfilling the duties of said office.
- iii. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate will serve as President of the Senate whenever that office becomes vacant, until such time as a successor may be chosen.
- iv. The President Pro Tempore of the Senate will serve as the Chair of the Replacement and Agenda Committee.

3. Senate Members-At-Large:

a. Elections

- i. The Senate will elect two (2) Members-At-Large at the same time as the President of the Senate, or whenever the office otherwise becomes vacant. After nominations from the floor have closed, each nominee will have five minutes to address the body, followed by a five-minute question and answer period. The Members-At-Large will be elected by a standing vote by all Senators present and voting. A majority of all votes cast will be required to win the election. In the event that no candidate receives a majority of all votes cast, the Senate will hold a runoff election between the two candidates that received the greatest number of votes.

b. Powers and Duties

- i. The Senate Members-At-Large will serve as voting members of the Replacement and Agenda Committee.
- ii. The Senate Members-At-Large will assist the Senate President and the

Senate President Pro Tempore in fulfilling the duties of the said office as requested.

4. Senate Parliamentarian:

a. Appointment:

- i. The President of the Student Senate ~~will~~ may appoint the Senate Parliamentarian whenever the office becomes vacant.
- ii. The Student Senate Parliamentarian will be considered an exclusionary office in accordance with Chapter 130 of the Student Body Statutes.
- iii. If the President of the Student Senate does not appoint a Senate Parliamentarian, the President Pro Tempore of the Student Senate will perform all duties prescribed in these Rules.

b. Powers and Duties:

- i. The Senate Parliamentarian will assist the chair in presiding over meetings of the Senate.
- ii. The Senate Parliamentarian will, upon request, instruct the Senate President, President Pro Tempore, and committee chairs and vice chairs on the proper methods for chairing meetings.
- iii. The Senate Parliamentarian will work to better the Senate's general understanding of parliamentary law, and will help any Senator with issues of parliamentary law.
- iv. The Senate Parliamentarian will upon request from any Senator, issue in writing a non-binding opinion on matters of parliamentary law.

5. Senate Sergeant-at-Arms:

a. Appointment:

- i. The President of the Student Senate may appoint the Senate Sergeant-at-Arms whenever the office becomes vacant.
- ii. The Student Senate Sergeant-at-Arms will be considered an exclusionary office in accordance with Chapter 130 of the Student Body Statutes.
- iii. ~~The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms may hold other office in Student Government, including a Senate seat.~~

b. Powers and Duties:

- i. The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms will be tasked with maintaining order and preventing individuals from disrupting meetings of the Senate as directed by the Chair.
- ii. The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms will remove individuals disrupting meetings of the Senate as deemed by the President of the Student Senate. Prior to removal the disruptive individual must be issued at least two warnings. The issuing of a warning on the basis of disruption will be left to the discretion of the Senate President.
- iii. The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms will guard the doors of the Senate chambers, preventing Senators entering the room from joining the voting body once a vote has begun or once a quorum call has been made.

6. Senate Secretary:

- a. A member of the Student Government office staff will fill the role of the Senate Secretary.
- b. Powers and Duties:
 - i. The Senate Secretary will record the minutes of all meetings of the full Senate.
 - ii. The Senate Secretary will perform other clerical duties as determined by Student Government Advising and Operations.
 - iii. The Senate Secretary will have all other duties listed in the Rules and Procedures.

RULE II
SENATE LIAISONS

(AMENDED: 2010-113, 2010-117, 2014-106, 2017-110, 2019-124, 2020-1064, 2021-1003)

1. Appointments:

- a. The President of the Senate may appoint Senate Liaisons to the other branches of Student Government and University auxiliaries.
- b. Senate Liaisons will serve at the leisure of the President of the Senate.
- c. Senate Liaisons ~~may~~ **must** also hold Senate seats.
- d. The Senate President will meet with the Senate Liaisons at their leisure.

2. Executive Branch Liaison:

- a. The Executive Branch Liaison will attend meetings of the ~~Vice-Presidential Student Government~~ Executive Cabinet, as defined by ~~201-63~~ Section 213.4, S.B.S. and will report on the meeting of the ~~Vice-Presidential Executive~~ Cabinet to the Senate as requested by the Senate President.
- b. The Executive Branch Liaison will maintain an open and working relationship with the Student Body Vice President, as well as serve as a facilitator between the Student Body Vice President and the Senate. The liaison will report on the activities of the Student Body Vice President to the Senate as requested by the Senate President.

3. University Police Department Liaison:

- a. The University Police Department Liaison will report to the Senate on the activities of the University Police Department, including matters pertaining to the Student Nighttime Auxiliary Patrol (S.N.A.P.), crime prevention, and outreach programs as requested by the Senate President.
- b. The University Police Department Liaison will maintain an open and working relationship with the Chief of Police, as well as serve as a facilitator between the Chief of Police and the Senate. The liaison will report on the activities of the Chief to the Senate as requested by the Senate President.

4. J. Wayne Reitz Student Union Liaison:

- a. The J. Wayne Reitz Student Union Liaison will attend meetings of the Reitz Union Board of Managers and report on the activities of the J. Wayne Reitz Union to the Senate as requested by the Senate President.
- b. The J. Wayne Reitz Student Union Liaison will maintain an open and working relationship with the J. Wayne Reitz Union Executive Director, as well as serve as a facilitator between the Executive Director and the Senate. The liaison will report on the activities of the Executive Director to the Senate as requested by the Senate President.

5. Department of Recreational Sports Liaison:

- a. The Department of Recreational Sports Liaison will attend meetings of the Department of Recreational Sports Board of Directors and report on the activities

of the Department of Recreational Sports to the Senate as requested by the Senate President.

- b. The Department of Recreational Sports Liaison shall maintain an open and working relationship with the Department of Recreational Sports Director, as well as serve as a facilitator between the Director and the Senate. The liaison shall report on the activities of the Director to the Senate as requested by the Senate or by the Senate President.

6. Student Activities and Involvement Liaison:

- a. The Student Activities and Involvement Liaison will report to the Senate on the activities of Student Activities and Involvement, including matters pertaining to student organizations and campus events, Sorority and Fraternity Affairs, and the David and Wanda Brown Center for Leadership & Service as requested by the Senate President.
- b. The Student Activities and Involvement Liaison will maintain an open and working relationship with the Student Activities and Involvement Director, as well as serve as facilitator between the Director and the Senate. The liaison will report on the activities of the Director to the Senate as requested by the Senate President.

7. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison:

- a. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison will report to the Senate on the activities of the Office of the Chief Diversity Officer and ~~Multicultural & Diversity Affairs~~ the Center for Inclusion & Multicultural Engagement, as requested by the Senate President.
- b. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Liaison will maintain an open and working relationship with the Chief Diversity Officer and the Director of ~~Multicultural and Diversity Affairs~~ the Center for Inclusion & Multicultural Engagement, as well as serve as a facilitator between these individuals and the Senate. The liaison will report on the activities of the Chief Diversity Officer and the Director of ~~Multicultural and Diversity Affairs~~ the Center for Inclusion & Multicultural Engagement to the Senate as requested by the Senate President.

RULE V
FLOOR RULES AND PRIVILEGES

(AMENDED: 2011-116, 2016-117, 2019-124, 2019-1104, 2020-1064, 2021-1009)

1. The Chair of the Senate:

- a. The President of the Senate will hold the chair of the Senate; or in the Senate President's absence, first the Senate President Pro Tempore, second the Chair of the Judiciary Committee, third the Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, fourth the Chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee, fifth the Chair of the Information and Communication Committee, and sixth a Senator elected from the body.
- b. The chair will call meetings of the Senate to order. If fifteen minutes have elapsed since the start time proposed in the call for the meeting, any member of the Senate may call the meeting to order and surrender the chair to whomever is first in the above line of succession. If none of these members are present, the Senate will elect a temporary chair from the floor in the same manner as the President of the Senate.
- c. The chair will rule on all points of order and issues of parliamentary law.
- d. The chair will deny the hearing of any dilatory motions and will issue a warning for disruptive conduct to any Senator who has made a dilatory motion.
 - i. A dilatory motion is any motion that seeks to disrupt the business of the Senate, is frivolous or absurd, or contains no rational proposition. The chair does not have to recognize any motion that they hold the independent subjective belief is dilatory.
 - ii. Motions to reconsider a question will be ruled dilatory when the Senate President determines a vote has a clear and convincing majority.
 - iii. This section will also apply to incidental motions including, but not limited to, points of information and parliamentary inquiries.
- e. The Senate may appeal any decision of the chair with a three-fifths vote by a rising vote.
 - i. When a decision of the chair on a question of order is appealed, the appeal will be considered non-debatable.
 - ii. Points of order related to responses of parliamentary inquiries, points of information, and decisions of recognition made by the chair may not be appealed.
- f. The Chair shall have the unilateral discretion at any time to recess any regular or special meeting of the Student Senate for a set period of time.
 - i. A Senator may object to the recess and a vote of one-fifth of those present and voting is required to sustain the objection.
 - ii. If the President of the Senate refuses to chair the meeting after an objection has been sustained, then the chair will fall to the next willing member in the line of succession pursuant to § (1)(a) of this Rule.

2. Floor Privileges:

- a. Senators who are rightfully able to vote will be able to speak in debate on the floor.
- b. The following people or their designees will be allowed as much time before the Senate as is necessary to present items germane to their administrations, and will have a total of five minutes each to yield to other speakers, so long as the presentation remains germane to the administration of the yielding individual.
 - i. The President, Vice President, and Treasurer of the Student Body
 - ii. The President-elect, Vice President-elect, and Treasurer-elect of the Student Body
 - iii. Any Student Government Cabinet Chair, Cabinet Director, Executive Secretary or Agency Head Chair
 - iv. The President and President Pro Tempore of the Senate,
 - v. Any Justice of the Supreme Court of the Student Body
 - ~~vi. The Chair of the Honor Court of the Student Body~~
 - vii. Any University Administrative Officer or Dean.
 - viii. The Senate Parliamentarian
- c. Any committee of the Senate will be allowed as much time before the Senate as is necessary to report on the activities of the committee and to make recommendations to the Senate germane to the purview of the committee.
- d. Senators who are declared absent during a meeting in accordance with Rule I § (1)(b)(viii) revoke all floor privileges granted under this rule for the remainder of said meeting.

3. Readings:

- a. Any member may call for the reading of any section of the Student Body Constitution and Statutes, Rules and Procedures of the Student Senate, or Robert's Rules of Order as it pertains to any motion, parliamentary inquiry, or point of order being heard.
- b. If any member should object to the reading, the question of entertaining the reading will be put to a vote without debate, requiring a majority for the reading to be entertained.
- c. The Parliamentarian of the Senate, or, in their absence, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate will perform all readings to the Senate.
- d. Messages from any of the individuals listed in Section 2(c) of this Rule delivered to the President of the Senate will be read in the place of their report.

4. Parliamentary Inquiries:

- a. Points of Order are defined as a question during a Student Senate meeting as to whether correct parliamentary procedure is being followed.
- b. Points of Information are defined as a question directed to the chair, or through the chair to another person, for information relevant to the business at hand.

RULE IX
PUBLIC COMMENT

(AMENDED: 2011-116, 2018-101, 2018-115, 2018-125, 2019-1104, 2020-1064, 2021-1003)

1. Rights to Comment:

- a. Each member of the Student Body may speak in public comment.
- b. Students may sign-up for public comment by submitting an electronic request that specifies the matter on which the student wishes to speak to the Senate President and Senate Secretary by 5:00 PM ET the day of the meeting of the Senate.
- c. Students must be present in the Senate chambers to receive public comment time.

2. Procedure:

- a. Public comment must be held before any pending legislation or nominations are heard.
- b. Each student signed up for public debate must have five minutes to speak.
- c. Students may only yield their speaking time to the Chair of the Senate.
- d. If a student does not exhaust their speaking time, it will automatically be yielded to the Chair of the Senate.
- e. The Senate is prohibited from extending or limiting the speaking time of any speaker.
- f. Students may reserve their speaking time once during public comment, causing their name to be passed on the list.
- g. Speakers must direct all comments to the Chair of the Senate. Any speaker that directs a comment at an individual other than the Chair of the Senate will be issued a warning for disruptive conduct. A speaker will automatically yield their time to the chair if they receive more than two warnings.
- h. Speakers may project a presentation or other digital media during public comment. All materials projected must be submitted to the Senate President and Senate Secretary along with the electronic request to speak by 5:00 PM ET the day of the meeting of the Senate.

3. Goodbye Speeches:

- a. During the last meeting of the Fall and Spring term before the validation of Senate election results, the Replacement & Agenda Committee will add a period following public debate for goodbye speeches for Senators not returning to the Senate.
- b. A Senator who is giving a goodbye speech will be allowed the time necessary to adequately deliver their speech.
- c. A Senator must notify the Senate President and Senate Secretary in writing by ~~11:59 PM ET the day before the~~ 5:00 PM ET the day of the meeting of the Senate to give a goodbye speech.

Elizabeth Hartzog

6/16/2022 | 2:47 PM EDT

Elizabeth Hartzog
Senate President

Date