

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1306**

**TITLE: Rule VI Rules Governing Debate Amendment – Rules and Procedures Amendment**

**AUTHOR(S): Senator Antonio Hendricks**

**SPONSOR(S):**

**RULE VI  
RULES GOVERNING DEBATE**

(AMENDED: 2011-116, 2016-117, 2019-124, 2019-1104, 2021-1003, 2023-137, 2023-192, 2023-193, 2023-194)

**1. Consideration of Bills:**

- a. Any bill of law, authorization, special request, or resolution will be debated pursuant to this section.
- b. Readings will be by title only, except when otherwise called for by a majority of those present and voting, in which case the Senate Parliamentarian will read the bill in its entirety.
- c. The authors and sponsors of the bill will be afforded five minutes to present the bill to the Senate.
- d. Following bill presentation, five minutes shall be allowed for non-debatable technical questions of the bill's authors and sponsors.
  - i. A non-debatable technical question will be any question that can be answered with "yes," "no," or a known fact.
  - ii. The bill's authors and sponsors may not be compelled to answer a question.
  - iii. The question period may be extended by a majority vote.
  - iv. If there are no questions to be asked, the Senate will move into discussion of amendments if there were any filed with the Senate Secretary pursuant to Rule XIV §2 or reported by committees. If there are no such amendments, Senate will move into debate.
- e. Amendments that have been filed with the Senate Secretary pursuant to Rule XV §2 or reported by committees will be heard following non-debatable technical questions on the original bill.

- i. Two minutes of presentation, two minutes of non-debatable technical questions, two rounds of con and pro debate with one minute per round per side, and then one minute of final privilege will be in order when hearing amendments.
  - ii. Following the above debate procedure, the amendment will be put to a vote.
- f. Following the question period or debate on the last amendment to the bill under consideration, whichever comes last, there shall be a period of pro/con debate on the bill.
  - i. Debate will be structured with three rounds of alternating con and pro with three minutes per side per round, followed by one round of four minutes per side.
  - ii. Any Senator may yield their debate time to a specific Senator or to like-minded speakers.
  - iii. Debate may be limited or extended by a two-thirds vote so long as each side is afforded an equal amount of time.
  - iv. If a Senator's speech is hostile to the side whose time they are using, that Senator will be issued a warning for disruptive conduct and any time used by that speech should be returned to the clock.
  - v. If, during the course of debate, it is deemed necessary to return to a question period, the Senate may do so with a three-fifths vote. The question period will again last for five minutes, then moving back into debate.
  - vi. If there are no Senators wishing to speak on concurrent rounds of con and pro, the Senate will move into final privilege.
- g. Following the debate period, the authors and sponsors of the bill will be afforded three minutes of final privilege.
- h. Following final privilege, the chair will put the question and the Senate will vote on the adoption of the bill.
- i. Amendments from the floor are prohibited unless the amendment is made by unanimous consent. Amendments must be filed with the Senate Secretary pursuant to Rule XIV §2 to be heard by the Senate unless the amendment is made by unanimous consent.

## **2. Consideration of Vetoed Legislation:**

- a. Whenever the Student Body President has vetoed any legislation and returned it to the Senate, that legislation may be added to the agenda under Vetoed Legislation by the Replacement and Agenda Committee after the Judiciary Committee has re-evaluated the legislation on the established criteria and will be debated pursuant to this section.

- i. In the event that the vetoed legislation is considered after the bill's authors or sponsors have left office, they may be granted speaking privileges if they are present in the Senate Chambers as provided within this rule.
    - ii. These speaking privileges shall only be limited to presentation, question and answer and final summation. These speaking privileges shall remain effective if an amendment is approved.
    - iii. These speaking privileges shall not be extended to non-students.
  - b. Whenever the Student Body Treasurer has vetoed any legislation that is under their purview and returned it to the Senate, that legislation may be added to the agenda under vetoed legislation by the Replacement and Agenda Committee.
    - i. In the event that the vetoed legislation is considered after the bill's authors or sponsors have left office, they may be granted speaking privileges if they are present in the Senate Chambers as provided within this rule.
    - ii. These speaking privileges shall only be limited to presentation, question and answer and final summation. These speaking privileges shall remain effective if an amendment is approved.
    - iii. These speaking privileges shall not be extended to non-students.
  - c. The Student Body President or the Student Body Treasurer will have three minutes to explain the reasoning behind the veto to the Senate; alternately, the Senate President will read a statement from the executive not to exceed three minutes. Following this, the bill's authors and sponsors will have three minutes to again present the bill and respond to the executive veto.
  - d. Following the presentation period, five minutes will be allowed for non-debatable technical questions for the bill's authors and sponsors or for the executive(s) that vetoed the bill.
    - i. A non-debatable technical question will be any question that can be answered with "yes," "no," or a known fact.
    - ii. The bill's authors and sponsors or the executive may not be compelled to answer a question.
    - iii. The question period may be extended by a majority vote.
    - iv. If there are no questions to be asked, the Senate will move into discussion of amendments if there were any filed with the Senate Secretary pursuant to Rule XIV §2 or reported by committees. If there are no such amendments, Senate will move into debate.
  - e. Amendments that have been filed with the Senate Secretary pursuant to Rule XIV §2 will be heard following non-debatable technical questions on the vetoed legislation.
    - i. Two minutes of presentation, two minutes of non-debatable technical questions, two rounds of con and pro debate with one minute per round

- per side, and then one minute of final privilege will be in order when hearing amendments.
- ii. Following the above debate procedure, the amendment will be put to a vote.
  - iii. If the senate agrees to an amendment to vetoed legislation, said legislation will be treated as a second reading from that point forward.
- f. Following the question period, or debate on the last amendment to the vetoed legislation under consideration, whichever comes last, there will be a period of pro/con debate, with pro being in support of overriding the veto and con in support of sustaining the veto. If an amendment is adopted pursuant to Rule VI Section 2(d), the debate procedure will be that seen in Rule VI Section 1(f).
- i. Debate will be structured with three rounds of alternating con and pro with three minutes per side per round, followed by one round of four minutes per side.
  - ii. Any Senator may yield their debate time to a specific Senator or to like-minded speakers.
  - iii. Debate may be limited or extended by a two-thirds vote so long as each side is afforded an equal amount of time.
  - iv. If a Senator's speech is hostile to the side whose time they are using, that Senator will be issued a warning for disruptive conduct and any time used by that speech will be returned to the clock.
  - v. If, during the course of debate, it is deemed necessary to return to a question period, the Senate may do so with a majority vote. The question period will again last for five minutes, then moving back into debate with all debate times being reset.
  - vi. If there are no Senators wishing to speak on concurrent rounds of con and pro, the Senate will move into amendments or final privilege.
- g. Following the debate period, the bill's authors and sponsors will be afforded two minutes of final summation. Following that, the executive who vetoed the bill will be afforded two minutes of final summation.
- i. Line-item vetoes on the Activity and Service Fee Budget will be voted upon by line item.
- h. Following final summation, the Chair will put the question and the Senate will vote on overriding the veto of the bill, with the affirmative in favor of overriding the veto.
- i. Amendments from the floor are prohibited unless the amendment is made by unanimous consent. Amendments must be filed with the Senate Secretary pursuant to Rule XIV §2 to be heard by the Senate unless the amendment is made by unanimous consent.

**3. Debate of Other Motions:**

- a. When the Senate is hearing any other debatable motion, there will be two rounds of alternating con and pro debate with one minute per round per side.
- b. The time afforded to all speakers may be limited or extended by a two-thirds vote, provided that any limitation applies to all subsequent speakers.
- c. Following the above debate procedure, the motion will be put to a vote.

**4. Special Rules Governing Debate:**

- a. The Senate may add special rules to the agenda from the floor during Amendments to the Agenda pertaining to the structure of debate with a two-thirds vote of the Senate.
- b. The Replacement and Agenda Committee may add special rules to the agenda pertaining to the structure of debate with a two-thirds vote of the committee. The Senate may suspend these special rules by a two-thirds vote from the floor during Amendments to the Agenda.



4/25/24

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Monish Vijayaraghavan  
Senate President

Date