

RULE VI RULES GOVERNING DEBATE

(AMENDED: 2011-116, 2016-117, 2019-124, 2019-138, 2019-1104, 2021-104, 2021-1003, 2023-137, 2023-192, 2023-193, 2023-194, 2024-223, 2024-285)

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. ~~Amending Sponsors on the Floor~~

- a. ~~If a piece of legislation is on the agenda for a meeting of the Student Senate and a Senator wishes to make changes to the sponsors line during the meeting of the Senate, that Senator must provide a document with the title of the bill at the top, followed by sections for Senators to each write their names to be added or stricken from the sponsors line. The only changes that can be made to the sponsors line on the floor of the Senate must be accomplished through this procedure.~~
- b. ~~Senators must each write their own names on the document, unless they have explicit, documented written or verbal consent to write someone else's name.~~
- c. ~~Immediately once a motion is made to amend the title or sponsors line of a certain piece of legislation and approved, the document must be provided to the Chair of the Senate. This document must be signed by all members wishing to add their name to either the author(s) or sponsor(s) line and submitted by the Chair of the Senate to the Senate Secretaries within 10 minutes of the conclusion of the meeting.~~

3. ~~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. ~~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.~~

RULE VII VOTING

(AMENDED: 2014-106, 2016-117, 2018-123, 2019-124, 2019-138, 2020-1064, 2021-104, 2023-118, 2023-127, 2023-191, 2024-144, 2024-147, 2024-267, 2025-154, 2025-157, 2025-159, 2025-179)

1. ~~Standard Voting Procedure:~~

- a. ~~Unless otherwise stated, the standard method for all votes will be by rising vote.~~
 - i. ~~Senators with physical disabilities that prevent them from standing may instead raise their hand to indicate their vote. Senators wishing to use this accommodation must notify the Senate President via email within two weeks of the beginning of their first legislative term.~~
 - 1. ~~This accommodation also allows for the individual Senator to be recognized by the Chair of the Senate through raising their hand.~~
- b. ~~The chair will declare the outcome of all votes.~~
- c. ~~Whenever a member doubts the result of any vote either because the result appears close or because they doubt that the representative number of members present have voted, they can call for Division of the Assembly, thereby requiring the vote to be taken again.~~
 - i. ~~Divisions will be conducted by counted rising vote.~~
 - ii. ~~Divisions take precedence over any motion on which a vote is being taken or has just been taken. It may be called for from the moment the negative votes have been cast until the announcement of the result is complete, or immediately thereafter before any debate or business has intervened.~~
 - iii. ~~Divisions can be applied to any motion on which the Senate is called upon to vote by voice or rising (not counted). No subsidiary motion can be applied to it.~~
 - iv. ~~Divisions do not require a second, are non-debatable and are non-amendable.~~
 - v. ~~Divisions cannot be reconsidered.~~
 - vi. ~~When it is clear that there has been a full vote and there can be no reasonable doubt as to which side is in the majority, a call for Division is dilatory.~~
- d. ~~No one may cast a vote for another Senator, under pain of penalty as outlined in Chapter 309 of the Student Body Statutes.~~
- e. ~~All voting records shall be maintained in the Senate's collection of public records.~~
- f. ~~No Senator may explain their vote when a vote is taking place. A Senator may only state yes, no, or abstain when voting. If a Senator does not comply with this provision, the Chair of the Senate will issue a warning for disruptive conduct.~~
- g. ~~No Senator may raise a privileged motion not related to the vote while a vote is taking place.~~
- h. ~~A Senator has the right to change their vote up until the result is announced.~~
- i. ~~No Senator may abstain from a vote except in cases wherein voting would present a conflict of interest.~~
 - i. ~~A conflict of interest exists whenever a Senator stands to gain an individual benefit from the matter being considered.~~

- ii. ~~Senators who abstain from voting due to a conflict of interest must indicate a reason for the abstention on their voter record by letting the Senate Secretaries know in writing within 24 hours of the end of the Senate meeting. If a reason for abstention is not filed with the Senate Secretaries within this time period, the Senator will have an incomplete voter record and will be given a one-half absence.~~
- j. ~~The chair shall not vote except in the event of a roll call vote where their vote would affect the result.~~
- k. ~~The following types of legislation will be subject to the number of readings as listed below:~~
 - i. ~~Bills that require one reading:~~
 - a. ~~An Authorization~~
 - b. ~~A Resolution~~
 - d. ~~A Rules and Procedures Change~~
 - e. ~~A Special Request~~
 - ii. ~~Bills that require two readings:~~
 - a. ~~A Constitutional Amendment~~
 - b. ~~A Reserve Transfer~~
 - e. ~~A Statute Change~~
 - d. ~~A Student Body Law~~
 - iii. ~~Bills that require three readings:~~
 - a. ~~A Vetoeed Bill~~
- l. ~~Unless stated otherwise, the standard method for hearing the Activity and Service Fee Budget will be as follows:~~
 - i. ~~The Activity and Service Fee Budget must be presented to the Student Senate no less than six days prior to first readings.~~
 - ii. ~~The Activity and Service Fee Budget must be passed through two readings. If the budget is amended, the amended budget must pass through two readings with identical form.~~

2. ~~Roll Call Votes:~~

- a. ~~When not otherwise called for, a roll call vote may be ordered by a majority of the Senators present and voting at any time before the voting period has begun. This motion will be considered both non-amendable and non-debatable.~~
- b. ~~The roll call vote will be conducted by the Chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee or their designee. During a roll call vote, the Chair of the Rules and Ethics Committee or their designee will call each Senator's name and each Senator will verbally indicate how they voted and use their electronic clicker.~~
 - i. ~~The name of the Chair of the Senate shall be called last during a roll call vote.~~
- c. ~~Senators may abstain from voting in the roll call vote in cases of conflict of interest pursuant to Section 1(h) of this rule.~~
 - i. ~~When the Senator wishing to abstain has their name called, they will explain the reason for the abstention to the Senate for consideration.~~

ii. ~~The Senator abstaining will provide the reason for abstention in writing to the Senate Secretaries within 24 hours of the end of the Senate meeting to be reflected on their voting record. If a reason for abstention is not filed with the Senate Secretaries within this time period, the Senator will have an incomplete voter record and will be given a one-half absence.~~

d. ~~Roll call votes will be recorded in the minutes of the meeting, indicating how each Senator present voted.~~

3. ~~Special Rules Governing Voting:~~

a. ~~The Senate may add special rules to the agenda from the floor during Amendments to the Agenda pertaining to voting with a two-thirds vote of the Senate.~~

b. ~~The Replacement and Agenda Committee may add special rules to the agenda pertaining to voting 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.~~

RULE VIII EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

(AMENDED: 2011-116, 2016-117, 2019-124, 2019-138, 2021-104, 2023-187)

1. ~~Procedure:~~

- a. ~~Whenever the Student Body President (or their designee) makes a nomination that requires the approval of the Senate, the final question will always be, "Will the Senate approve this nomination?"~~
 - i. ~~This question will be considered automatically, and as such it is unnecessary to make a main motion regarding executive nominations.~~
 - ii. ~~Debate over this question will begin with five minutes of questions of the Student Body President (or their designee) or the nominee in question.~~
 - iii. ~~After the question period, 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.~~
 - iv. ~~The same parliamentary motions regarding question periods and debate in bill consideration will be in order for executive nominations.~~

2. ~~Review of Qualifications:~~

- a. ~~Executive nominations that are not pending on the agenda (see Rule III, §1(c)(viii)) will be submitted to the Replacement and Agenda Committee Chair, no later than 12:00 PM ET, two days before the Replacement and Agenda Committee's meeting date.~~
- b. ~~Judicial Branch nominations that are not pending on the agenda (see Rule III, §1(c)(viii)) will be submitted to the Judiciary Committee Chair no later than 12:00 PM ET, two days before the Judiciary Committee's meeting date.~~
- c. ~~The above listed committees will review each nominee and will determine if they meet all qualifications required to hold the office for which they are appointed.~~
- d. ~~The above listed committees may be recognized to report their findings to the Senate when the Senate is considering the nomination in question.~~

RULE IX PUBLIC COMMENT

(AMENDED: 2011-116, 2018-101, 2018-115, 2018-125, 2019-138, 2020-1064, 2021-104, 2021-130, 2023-153, 2023-189, 2024-146, 2024-222, 2024-233, 2025-178)

1. ~~Rights to Comment:~~

- a. ~~Each member of the Student Body, excluding current student senators, 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 which is received no later than 5:00 PM EST or the scheduled start of the Senate if the meeting is scheduled before 5:00 PM EST, on 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 comment must be afforded a maximum of three minutes to speak.~~
- c. ~~Students may cede their speaking time to another student that is also signed up for public comment who has not already spoken.~~
- d. ~~The student receiving the time may not receive more than six minutes of public comment time in total.~~
- e. ~~If a student does not exhaust their speaking time, it will automatically be yielded to the Chair of the Senate.~~
- f. ~~The Senate is prohibited from extending or limiting the speaking time of any speaker.~~
- g. ~~Students may reserve their speaking time once during public comment, causing their name to be passed on the list.~~
- h. ~~If a student is not present in the chamber when their name is called, the name of the student will be automatically reserved once.~~
- i. ~~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.~~
- j. ~~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 EST or the scheduled start of the Senate if the meeting is scheduled before 5:00 PM EST, on 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 comment for goodbye speeches for Senators not returning to the Senate.~~
- b. ~~Senators who resign from the Senate will have the opportunity to deliver a goodbye speech no later than the proceeding Senate meeting.~~
- c. ~~A Senator who is giving a goodbye speech will be allowed no more than 15 minutes to deliver their speech.~~
- d. ~~A Senator must notify the Senate President and Senate Secretary in writing by 5:00 PM EST or the scheduled start of the Senate if the meeting is scheduled before 5:00 PM EST, on the day of the meeting of the Senate to give a goodbye speech.~~

RULE X

COMMITTEES

(AMENDED: 2011-116, 2016-117, 2019-124, 2020-1064, 2021-104, 2023-152, 2023-190, 2024-225, 2024-226, 2025-166, 2025-168)

1.—Types of Committees of the Student Senate:

- a.—Standing Committees of the Senate will be established by Rule XI of these Rules and Procedures.
- b.—The Senate President may establish Ad-Hoc Committees.

2.—Ad-Hoc Committees:

- a.—The Senate President may establish Ad-Hoc Committees, temporary committees of the Senate focused on addressing specific tasks or issues as established in their creation:
 - i.—The Senate President will appoint the members and leadership of Ad-Hoc Committees. Membership of Ad-Hoc Committees may include both Senators and members of the Student Body. The Senate may, by a two-thirds vote, remove any member of an Ad-Hoc Committee (see Rule XII § 8 for removal from Standing Committees).
 - ii.—The Senate President may discharge any Ad-Hoc Committee of the Senate. The Senate may, by a two-thirds vote, discharge any Ad-Hoc Committee of the Senate.
- b.—The Senate President will be regularly informed of any Ad-Hoc Committee business.

3.—Committee Reports:

- a.—Standing Committees will report verbally at every meeting of the Senate on their activities since they last reported to the Senate. This verbal report from a Chair or their designee—who must be another member of that Standing Committee—will be no more than 10 minutes and germane to the committee's business.
 - i.—The Senate may also receive Minority Reports following the regular report of any Standing Committee. Minority Reports may be issued by one or more members of a committee dissenting from the official report of that committee. This verbal report will be no more than 5 minutes and germane to the committee's business.
 - 1.—If any Senator should object to the reading of a minority report, the support of one-fifth of those Senators present and voting is required for the report to be entertained.
- b.—Ad-Hoc Committees will report verbally at every meeting of the Senate on their activities since they last reported to the Senate. A verbal report from an Ad-Hoc Committee will be no more than 5 minutes and germane to the committee's business.
- c.—If any of the aforementioned types of reports do not exhaust its full allotted time, the remainder of the time will be automatically yielded to the Chair of the Senate.

RULE XI

STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE

(AMENDED: 2009-100, 2009-104, 2009-121, 2009-140, 2010-122, 2011-114, 2011-116, 2011-130, 2014-106, 2014-111, 2016-117, 2018-114, 2018-121, 2019-124, 2019-1104, 2020-1034, 2020-1064, 2021-104, 2022-126, 2023-122, 2023-136, 2023-142, 2023-145, 2023-195, 2024-245, 2024-252, 2024-253, 2024-290, 2024-293, 2024-294, 2025-107, 2025-182, 2025-170)

~~1. Replacement and Agenda Committee:~~

~~a. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will consist of the following members:~~

- ~~i. The Senate President Pro Tempore, as Chair~~
- ~~ii. The Senate President~~
- ~~iii. The leader of each political party or coalition (see Rule XVII)~~
- ~~iv. The Two Senate Members At Large~~
- ~~v. A member of the Student Body that is appointed by the Senate President Pro Tempore as the Replacement and Agenda Committee Clerk, who serves as the taker of minutes, for the Replacement and Agenda Committee, as an ex-officio non-voting, non-speaking member.~~
 - ~~1. Should the chair choose not to fill this position, a committee member will serve as the taker of minutes.~~

~~b. Duties:~~

- ~~i. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will prepare the agenda for regular meetings of the Senate in accordance with Rule III §1.~~
- ~~ii. The Replacement and Agenda Committee may add special rules to the agenda pertaining to the structure of debate and voting with a two-thirds vote of the committee. The committee may not change the threshold required to approve a nominee or legislation. The Senate may suspend these special rules by a two-thirds vote.~~
- ~~iii. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will recommend to the Senate the voting members of the other standing committees. The Senate shall hear these recommendations during the committee's report (See §7 of this Rule).~~
- ~~iv. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will recommend to the Senate the voting members of the other standing committees. The Senate shall hear these recommendations during the committee's report (See §8 of this Rule).~~
- ~~v. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will recommend to the Senate replacement Senators to fill any vacant seats not handled under Rule XII, Section 3 of the Rules and Procedures of the Student Senate. The Senate will hear these recommendations during the committee's report (See Rule XIII).~~
 - ~~1. Following a vote by the committee regarding a vacant position not handled under Rule XII, Section 3 of the Rules and Procedures of the Student Senate, the Replacement and Agenda Committee Chair will notify all applicants within twenty-four (24) hours of the committee's decision.~~
- ~~vi. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will review the qualifications of all executive nominations that require Senate approval, except for those~~

~~nominations to the judicial branch, determining if they are eligible to hold said office.~~

- ~~vii. The chair of the committee 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 committee's activities of that session and offer suggestions to future chairs.~~

~~c. Appointment Selection Criteria:~~

- ~~i. The Replacement and Agenda Committee shall establish clear and transparent selection criteria for recommending nominees for Standing Committee Chairs, Standing Committee Seats, and Replacement Senators to fill vacant senate seats. These criteria shall include, but not be limited to:~~

- ~~1. Qualifications including strong academic standing, a proven track record of leadership experience in student organizations, clubs, or other groups that highlight their ability to manage responsibilities, and communication skills essential for engagement in meaningful dialogue.~~
- ~~2. Experience including involvement in community service or advocacy work demonstrating a dedication to positively impacting their peers, participation in campus initiatives or projects to engage with the campus community, and familiarity with the legislative processes and procedures including the functions and responsibilities of the Student Senate.~~
- ~~3. Commitment to serving the student body and their constituency, including a demonstrated dedication to representing diverse student interests, a track record of advocating for student concerns and addressing campus issues, and willingness to fulfill the responsibilities of serving.~~
- ~~4. Demonstrated ability to work collaboratively within the Senate, including teamwork and consensus-building skills, respectful and professional conduct in decision-making, openness to diverse perspectives, willingness to compromise when necessary, and a commitment to uphold the values and goals of the Student Government and Student Senate.~~

- ~~ii. These selection criteria shall be made publicly available on the Student Government Senate's official website.~~

- ~~iii. During the interview and deliberation processes, the committee shall evaluate candidates based on these appointment selection criteria and any other relevant characteristics of the candidate's application or interview. The committee shall strive to ensure that decisions are made objectively and in the best interest of the student body, regardless of political affiliation.~~

- ~~d. The Replacement and Agenda Committee will meet at least once every two school weeks at the time and place determined by the chair, unless there is no business to be heard by the committee, and as otherwise ordered by the Senate by a two-thirds vote. The Chair may call additional meetings at their leisure.~~