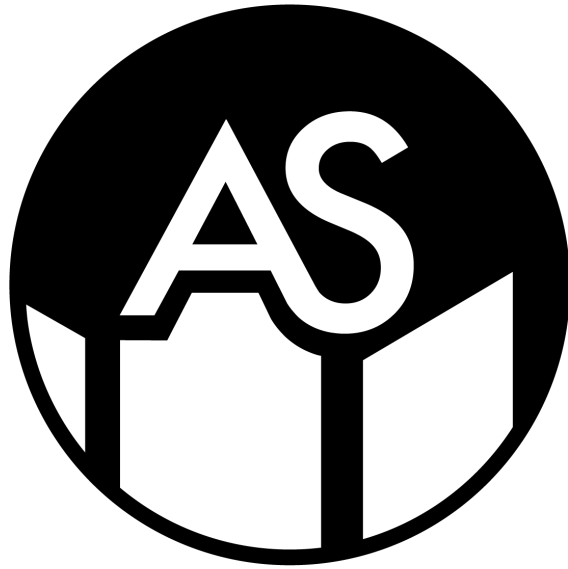




**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO**

RULES OF THE SENATE

Adopted 2026-05-11

CHAPTER I.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

RULE I | Primacy of the Rules

The Rules of the Senate shall govern the proceedings of the Senate and its committees, and shall prevail over any precedents, traditions or other authorities the Senate may have previously relied upon, so long as they are consistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Association.

RULE II | Other sources of authority in unspecified cases

In cases where the Rules are silent or otherwise unclear, the normative practices of the Senate and its committees may be followed, with such adjustments as may be required by the circumstances. The practices of other democratic deliberative/legislative bodies may also be followed as necessary, at the discretion of the Speaker, in accordance with the Bylaws and Constitution,

RULE III | Special circumstances for deviation

Where a provision of these Rules or a practice of the Senate prevents a Member from fully and equally participating in the Senate's proceedings due to a disability, as defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, and other applicable federal, state, or local statute, the Speaker or the chair of a committee may authorize reasonable adjustments to the application of the rules or practices in order to ensure that the Member is able to participate in proceedings of the Senate or one of its committees on equal footing with other Members.

RULE IV | Rules not to limit Senate's powers set out in legislation

These Rules shall not limit the Senate's ability to exercise its powers and privileges as set out in the Constitution and Bylaws, but provides for procedural means by which they can be properly exercised, as is provided for by the Constitution.

RULE V | Suspension of a Rule

(1) Except as otherwise provided, any rule or part of a rule may, with leave of the Senate, be suspended with Notice, provided that a Senator seeking leave of the Senate for the suspension of a rule or part of a rule states the rule or part thereof to be suspended and provides an explanation. A rule shall remain suspended until the Senate decides to reinstate it, or until the adjournment of the sitting. To suspend a rule or part thereof, the agreement of a two-thirds majority of the Senate must be obtained.

(2) No suspension of a rule, or a part thereof, shall be permitted if it is done in order to disproportionately prejudice the rights of a Member so as to deny them equal participation in proceedings.

RULE VI | Decisions to be made by majority, save for certain cases

The substantive decisions of the Senate shall, in accordance with the Constitution, be generally made by a majority vote of the Senate. Procedural motions may be put to the Senate and decided by at least a majority vote of the Senate; any higher threshold must be set herein.

CHAPTER II.

THE SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

RULE VII | Election of the Speaker

(1) The Speaker of the Senate shall be elected as its presiding officer for the term, and shall be chosen from among the Senators who have sat in the Senate for a majority of a prior term, by a majority vote conducted via secret ballot prior to a new Senate conducting any other business. Candidates for Speaker shall notify the Clerk of the Senate of their intention to stand for election to be Speaker forty-eight hours prior to the sitting during which the Speaker election shall be held.

(2) If within forty-eight hours of the first sitting of the Senate of the new term, no Senator with the above-specified qualification notifies the Clerk of their intention to stand in the Speaker election, the Clerk shall promptly inform the Senate and incoming Senators, and shall allow all incoming and continuing senators to declare their intention to stand.

(3) At the first sitting of the Senate of the new term, the Dean of the Senate or the Clerk shall announce the names of Senators who declared their intention to stand in the Speaker election, and shall call for formal nominations, which must be seconded. Save for circumstances where no candidates have declared their intention to stand, nominations and seconds may only be counted towards those candidates who have declared their intention to stand.

(4) Once valid nominations have been received, those who have been nominated to be Speaker shall, in an order randomly determined, address the Senate to provide their reasons for seeking the Speakership, after which any questions may be asked to one or more candidates for a period not exceeding 10 minutes per candidate, or 30 minutes in total.

(5) Upon the candidate questions period being exhausted, the Senate shall conduct a vote by secret ballot, curated by the Clerk and certified by the Member Presiding, during which a candidate must receive a majority of the votes. In addition to the names of candidates, the ballot shall contain an option for a voting member to select that they have “No Confidence in any candidate to perform the functions of Speaker.”

(6) In the case where there is only one candidate, that candidate must still receive at least a majority of the votes cast.

(7) The Dean of the Senate, who shall be the longest continuously serving Senator, presides over the election of the Speaker, with the assistance of the Clerk. The Clerk may preside in the case that the Dean is unable to.

RULE VIII | Speaker accountable to the Senate

The Speaker shall be accountable to the Senate for the conduct of their duties and the general execution of their office.

RULE IX | Election of a Principal Deputy Speaker

The Senate shall, by the third sitting week of its term, elect, from amongst its members, a Principal Deputy Speaker who shall preside over the Senate in the absence of the Presiding Officer.

RULE X | Election of additional Deputy Speakers

The Senate may elect from amongst its members two additional Deputy Speakers, who may preside over the Senate in the absence of the Speaker and the Principal Deputy Speaker. The seniority of the additional Deputy Speakers shall be determined by the order of their appointment. Whenever there is a vacancy in the offices of Principal Deputy Speaker or in one of the additional Deputy Speaker posts, the Senate shall fill said vacancies within two weeks of their occurrence.

RULE XI | Term of office of the the Deputy Speakers

The term of the Principal Deputy Speaker and the additional Deputy Speakers shall last from the date of their appointment until the expiration of their terms as Senators.

RULE XII | Duty to remain in the chair

The presiding officer of a given meeting should remain in the chair for the duration of a sitting of the Senate, except during recesses, suspension of a sitting, or unless it is their intention to vacate the chair for the remainder of the sitting, or for the remainder of discussion on a given item of business.

RULE XIII | Vacating the chair

Whenever the presiding officer of a given meeting vacates the chair for a part of or the remainder of a sitting, they shall call upon the Principal Deputy Speaker, one of the additional Deputy Speakers, or another present, able, and willing Senator to assume the chair.

RULE XIV | Inability to preside

Whenever the Speaker is unable to be present, or otherwise unable to preside on a sitting day, they shall inform the Senate in a timely manner, where possible. In such a case, the Principal Deputy Speaker shall have the first right to assume the chair, followed by the additional Deputy Speakers, in order of their dates of appointment. Where neither the Principal Deputy Speaker nor the additional Deputy Speakers are present or able to assume the chair, the Senate shall designate an Acting Speaker from amongst the members present, able, and willing to assume the chair. The appointment of an Acting Presiding Officer shall lapse upon the adjournment of the sitting day for which they were elected to preside.

RULE XV | Acts of persons presiding to have validity as acts by the Speaker

(1) Any act done by the Principal Deputy Speaker, an additional Deputy Speaker, or any Senator occupying the Chair of the Senate under the provisions of this Chapter shall have the same effect and validity as if it had been done by the Speaker, and shall be guided by the same restrictions and limitations.

(2) Accordingly, a Senator occupying the Chair under the provisions of this Chapter shall be bound by the same duties and responsibilities as the Speaker.

RULE XVI | Ruling on points of order or questions of privilege

(1) When called upon to make a ruling on a point of order or a question of privilege, the Speaker shall first hear arguments on the matter. Once the Speaker has heard sufficient argument to make a decision, they shall make an immediate ruling or take the matter under advisement. The Senate shall then continue consideration of the item of interrupted business or proceed to the next item, depending on what most appropriately suits the circumstances.

(2) Whenever ruling on a point of order or question of privilege, the Speaker shall give reasons for the ruling, citing any rules, precedents, or authorities as may be appropriate and applicable in reaching their decision on the matter.

(3) The rulings of the Speaker shall be final within the proceedings of the Senate.

RULE XVII | Role in maintaining order

(1) The Speaker may interrupt any proceeding for the purpose of restoring order or enforcing the Rules.

(2) In the event of extreme disorder, the Speaker may suspend the Senate for up to two hours.

(3) In the event of a legitimate threat to the safety or comfort of the members of the Senate or other individuals in the chamber, or where there is a threat related to the business or other such function of the Senate, the Speaker shall suspend the Senate until it is deemed safe to call the Senate back to order.

(4) When the Speaker addresses the Senate, all Members shall cease any speeches or debate and mute their microphones; and if standing, Members shall resume their seats.

(5) The Speaker shall limit their addresses to the Senate to limit the disruption to the business of the Senate. As such, such addresses should typically only be made to restore order or raise a matter of importance to the Senate's attention.

(6) When the Senate is sitting, Senators should not engage in activities that are disruptive to the business of the Senate; in such a case, where such behavior becomes disruptive, the Speaker may require the Senator(s) to step outside of the floor until they resolve the disruptive activities.

RULE XVIII | Removal of the Speaker and Deputy Speakers

(1) A Senator may pursue the removal of the Speaker, the Principal Deputy Speaker, or another Deputy Speaker of the Senate by submitting a removal petition to the Speaker, or in the case that the Speaker is the subject of the petition, to the Clerk of the Senate. The petition must state clear reasons for the desire to remove the officeholder; the requirements of which shall be the same as those for the removal of an Executive Officer or Cabinet Officer as outlined in the Constitution. Once a petition which is valid in its form has been submitted, the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership shall be convened at which point the filer of the petition shall present a case for the removal, and the subject of the petition may be given an opportunity to defend themselves. The Committee, if it finds there to be substantial merit to the case made by the petition, must vote by a two-thirds majority of its members to advance the petition to the Committee of the Whole. If a petition is advanced to the Committee of the Whole, the matter shall be considered ahead of all other business at the next Senate meeting, at which time the subject of the petition shall be given an opportunity to provide a defense on the Senate floor. The Senate, sitting as a Committee of the Whole, may commence debate on the matter. The decision to advance the petition to the Senate floor shall be made by a two-thirds majority of the Committee of the Whole. If the Committee agrees to the recommendation, it shall rise and report, after which the Senate decides on the adoption of the recommendation, which shall constitute the decision of the Senate on the matter. An officeholder removed under this provision shall continue in office as a Senator, unless removed from that post as constitutionally provided for.

(2) The Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership shall determine whether or not a matter is sensitive enough to justify being handled in closed session. If it determines this to be the case, any discussion related to the matter must be done in a closed session setting, with a member of the Professional Staff present.

RULE XIX | Disputes between Senators relating to the business of the Senate

When a dispute arises between Senators from a debate or other Senate proceeding, including proceedings in committees, the Speaker, or the Senate as a whole, or the relevant committee thereof, may intervene to resolve such disputes.

RULE XX | Invitation of officers of the Executive to discuss pertinent business

(1) When a bill or other matter relating to the responsibilities of the Executive Branch is being considered by the Senate, the officer of the Executive responsible, who is not a member of the Senate, may, on the invitation of the Senate, or at the discretion of the Speaker, unless otherwise rejected by the Senate, enter the chamber and take part in debate for the duration of that debate or the consideration of that relevant item.

(2) Anyone who is invited to enter the chamber and take part in debate or other such Senate proceedings shall be subject to the rules and procedures of the Senate.

CHAPTER III.

SITTINGS OF THE SENATE

RULE XXI | Regular meeting times

During the Regular Academic Year (from Fall to Spring), the Senate shall, with the exception of Finals Week for each Quarter or as otherwise specifically provided for by the Senate, sit at 6:00 PM in the Forum of Price Center once per week.

RULE XXII | Convening the Senate

The Senate officially enters into session and a sitting commences once the Speaker, being satisfied that quorum can be reached at the calling of the roll, calls the Senate to order at or after the scheduled meeting time.

RULE XXIII | Quorum

(1) In order to transact business, as required by the Constitution, greater than half of the total voting membership of the Senate must be present.

(2) If a quorum is evidently not present after 20 minutes from the scheduled time at which the Senate is due to meet, the Speaker shall declare the Senate not to have met quorum, and thus that it is unable to meet, at which point the Speaker shall leave the chair until the next sitting.

(3) If, during a sitting, the Member should note or otherwise be apprised that the Senate lacks quorum, the Member may draw attention to the lack of quorum. The Speaker shall request the attendance of voting Members who are able to attend. If, after fifteen minutes, quorum is not established, the Speaker shall adjourn the Senate until the next sitting.

(4) Business which is under consideration at the sitting which has been adjourned for lack of quorum, except for business items added during that sitting, shall automatically be included in the business for the next sitting.

RULE XXIV | Adjournment

(1) The Speaker may adjourn the Senate when there is no other business remaining for that day's sitting, or for any other reason as provided for in these Rules.

(2) Once the Senate is adjourned, it enters an Adjournment Period – meaning a period during which the Senate is not sitting. During an Adjournment period, the Speaker may recall the Senate in an emergency circumstance, or, if called to do so by the Association President, or by one-fifth of the voting membership of the Senate.

(3) In the case that the Senate is recalled to sit prior to the next scheduled sitting day, the Speaker shall ensure that all Members are informed that the Senate is due to meet for an additional, special time. Rules for in-person attendance shall be relaxed as is reasonable for such circumstances.

CHAPTER IV. ORDER OF BUSINESS

RULE XXV | Order of Business to be set by the Speaker

The Speaker sets the Order of Business of the Senate according to these Rules.

Ordinarily followed order of business

The Speaker of the Senate shall, unless otherwise determined proper, or as otherwise required by the Rules, provide for the order of business to be formed as follows:

- (a) Call to order;
- (b) Initial Calling of the Roll;
- (c) Public Input;
- (d) Approval of the Order of Business;
- (e) Preliminary Motions;
- (f) Special Presentations;
- (g) Opening Statements;
- (h) Reports;
 - (i) Senators' Reports;
 - (ii) Executive Reports;
- (i) Questions Period;
- (j) Reports of Committees
- (k) Legislation;
- (l) Appropriations;
- (m) Special Motions;
- (n) Announcements;
- (o) Final Calling of the Roll;
- (p) Adjournment.

RULE XXVI | Call to order

The Speaker calls the Senate to order, therefore commencing proceedings for the sitting day, by stating that the Senate has been called to order at a given time.

RULE XXVII | Initial Calling of the Roll

The Clerk, or another officer of the Senate designated by the Speaker, shall call the Roll and record the attendance at the start of the proceedings following the Call to order.

RULE XXVIII | Public Input

(1) During the Public Input period, members of the Public shall be given the opportunity to address the Senate on pertinent matters. If it is apparent that there are no individuals wishing to give Public Input, or if the Public Input list has been exhausted, the Speaker shall proceed to the next item on the Order of Business.

(2) Individuals addressing the Senate shall do so in a respectful manner, and shall observe the Rules of the Senate and the expected decorum of the Senate.

The Public Input period shall not exceed one (1) hour, unless extended by agreement of two-thirds of the Senate, and each individual addressing the Senate shall be limited to two (2) minutes. No individual shall address the Senate more than once per sitting for Public Input.

RULE XXIX | Special Presentations

(1) A person or entity who has been sponsored by a Member of the Senate, may be given the opportunity to address the Senate with or without a visual accompaniment.

(2) Each special presentation shall not exceed twenty (20) minutes in total duration, unless given special dispensation by the Senate in advance, or if the Senate determines that there are sufficient questions for the presenters, such that an extension of the period would be warranted during the sitting. Questions shall count towards the presentation duration.

RULE XXX | Opening Statements

(1) Members of the Senate wishing to give statements to the Senate shall have the opportunity to do so during this period. Statements shall not be treated as reports, and shall only be used to remark upon relevant current events or to pay tribute to certain individuals or entities.

(2) Each Member shall be limited to one statement, not exceeding three (3) minutes.

RULE XXXI | Reports

(1) Senators wishing to make reports shall be permitted to give a report on the progress of their official activities, which shall not exceed three (3) minutes, unless given special dispensation by the Speaker.

(2) Executive Officers shall provide a report on their official activities, as well as the state of affairs pertaining to their department and overall portfolio. If an Executive Officer has nothing to report, they shall state this to the Senate.

(3) During the Executive Reports period, other Cabinet Officers may be permitted to deliver reports if requested by the Senate or if they have received the permission of the Senate or the Speaker to do so.

RULE XXXII | Question Period

- (1) The Question Period shall constitute: Questions pertaining to Reports and Questions to Executive Officers. They may also include questions directed to other officers of the Executive who have been invited to attend the Senate or otherwise made to be present.
- (2) Questions pertaining to Reports shall only be addressed to Senators on matters relating to what specific Senators had stated during their reports, if they had given any.
- (3) Questions to Executive Officers (or officers of the executive generally) may be asked on any matter pertaining to that Officer's official responsibilities.

RULE XXXIII | Reports of Committees

- (1) The Chairpersons of the various committees of the Senate shall provide a report on the business which their respective committees have considered. The chairpersons whose committees have concluded consideration on Legislation or Appropriations shall report to the Senate on whether their committee has Discharged an item with a Positive Recommendation, Discharged an item without reaching a clear decision, or Denied advancement of an item.
- (2) Questions may be addressed to committee chairs and members thereof relating to a matter being reported on.

RULE XXXIV | Legislation

- (1) Business classified as legislation shall be constituted of bills for amendments or additions to the bylaws, constitutional amendment proposals, and draft resolutions.
- (2) Legislation can, at the second, be debated, amended, approved, rejected, or withdrawn.

RULE XXXV | Appropriations

Business classified as appropriations shall be constituted of authorizations for expenditures or any matters relating to the annual budget and amendments to the budget.

RULE XXXVI | Special Motions and Preliminary Motions

- (1) When a particular course of action is to be ordered or taken by the Senate, such as the requirement of a Cabinet Officer to appear before the Senate or the approval of the Executive Policy Address, a Special Motion shall be required and must be submitted with Notice. A Motion of no confidence in the Executive, or a member thereof, shall also be considered a Special Motion.

(2) Preliminary Motions are a type of Special Motion that require consideration earlier in a sitting because they materially affect the order, timing, or conduct of the Senate's subsequent proceedings during that sitting day.

RULE XXXVII | Emergency Discussion

(1) A Member of the Senate may cause for there to be an Emergency Discussion held on a particular topic of particular urgency by submitting an application for such to the Speaker at least twenty-four (24) hours prior to the next scheduled sitting of the Senate. Such an application shall be referred to the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership by the Speaker, which shall have the discretionary power to approve or reject the application.

(2) In the case that an Emergency Debate is approved and put on the Order of Business, only reports by Executive Officers shall be given during the Reports period.

(3) An Emergency Debate shall be opened by the sponsoring Member, who shall be given five minutes to introduce the matter for attention of the Senate, after which there shall be a period of twenty (20) minutes allotted for debate.

RULE XXXVIII | Submissions to the Order of Business

(1) A Member may submit items to be situated under the following categories on the Business Paper: Special Presentations; Legislation; Appropriations; and Special Motions.

(2) The Speaker, with the support of the Clerk, shall provide for a manner by which items are submitted.

(3) Defective, unclear, or otherwise incorrect submissions may be rejected by the Speaker.

(4) The deadline for submissions for a given meeting shall be forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled meeting start time, unless otherwise provided for in these Rules.

RULE XXXIX | Submission of Questions

(1) A Member of the Senate may submit a question to an Executive Officer forty-eight (48) hours prior to the scheduled meeting start time at which the question shall be asked. Such questions shall typically be that of a nature where the Executive Officer to whom the question is being asked may require time to prepare and collect information in order to adequately answer the question.

(2) The Speaker, with the support of the Clerk, shall provide for a manner by which questions may be submitted.

(3) Defective, unclear, or otherwise incorrect submissions may be rejected by the Speaker.

CHAPTER V.

Motions, Points and Notice for Motions

RULE XL | General nature of motions

Motions are proposals made by Members of the Senate in order to guide or initiate a course of action in the Senate. Certain motions require Notice to be given prior to being moved, whilst others are of a procedural nature and can be initiated and moved during a sitting. A motion, after being seconded, shall, unless otherwise provided for, be debated. Following debate, if there is any, the question of adopting the motion shall be put to the Senate, which shall, unless otherwise provided for, be decided by a majority of the votes.

RULE XLI | Motions requiring Notice

- (1) Motions which require Notice must be submitted as an item at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance on the Order of Business as either a Preliminary Motion or a Special Motion.
- (2) Preliminary Motions are reserved for particularly urgent motions which must be decided in order for the rest of the Senate's business to proceed accordingly. Otherwise, the motion must be submitted as a Special Motion.
- (3) A notice of twenty-four (24) hours shall be required for motions to—
 - (a) Suspend a Rule or a Part of the Rule;
 - (b) Expedite a proposal;
 - (c) Establish a special committee;
 - (d) Make an appointment;
 - (e) Freeze funding or stipend payment;
 - (f) Reinstate funding or stipend payment;
 - (g) Order the Executive to take a certain action; and
 - (h) Require the appearance of an officer of the Executive at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Senate or another Senate meeting (besides the one at which the motion is being considered) as specified by the motion.
- (4) If accepted as part of the Order of Business, the initiator of a motion or a Member speaking on behalf of the initiator shall move the Motion on the floor, at which point it requires a second to be taken up.
- (5) A motion requiring notice shall be debatable.

RULE XLII | Procedural Motions

Procedural motions are motions affecting primary motions or other legislative or appropriation proposals before the Senate, which are made in the course of debate on such matters. Such motions may alter such proposals, or

alter the course of such proposals. Procedural motions are not debatable unless otherwise specified. Procedural motions include motions to–

Refer to Committee – Refers the item/question before the Senate to a committee specified in the motion for further deliberation, consideration, and inquiry. If agreed to, the debate on and consideration of the item/question is concluded;

Suspend Consideration – Concludes debate and consideration of a certain item until a time specified by the motion. If no time is specified, it is assumed to be suspended until the next sitting. If the time specified is indefinite, the item must be specifically revived by a Preliminary Motion;

Enter Recess – Halts Senate proceedings for a fixed amount of time, not less than five (5) minutes, but not greater than thirty (30) minutes. When the Senate resumes sitting, all business will resume where left off;

Amend – A debatable motion that seeks to make an amendment to a proposal under consideration by the Senate;

Enter a Closed Session – A debatable motion that requires the pausing of the keeping of any record of the meeting, and requires all persons who are not Senate officers, Senate staff, Members of the Senate, or special invitees to exit the chamber. This is usually used to discuss sensitive matters, or where it is necessary to maintain order or ensure the comfort or safety of Members. Any discussions conducted during this period shall be kept fully confidential among the Members of the Senate. Only the decisions made need be recorded;

Exit the Closed Session – A debatable motion that allows for the resuming of the keeping of any record of the meeting, and allows members of the public to re-enter the chamber;

Put the question now/Call the question – Adopted by agreement of two-thirds of the Members of the Senate in order to immediately conclude debate, prior to debate actually being exhausted, and to have the matter being debated brought to an immediate vote.

Reconsider – A debatable motion that allows for an item which was previously decided to be brought up again, no later than at the next meeting of the Senate, to be considered again by the Senate. Such a motion must be agreed to by two-thirds of the Senate. A motion to reconsider may be made as a procedural motion during the same meeting at which a decision was taken. Otherwise, it must be made as a Preliminary Motion requiring Notice.

RULE XLIII | Points

Points are queries or notifications directed to the Speaker to request that the Speaker take a certain course of action or make a specific decision or issue an order. Points can be made at any time during proceedings, but shall not be used nefariously or in a frivolous manner to unnecessarily disrupt the business of the Senate.

Point of Personal Privilege – Allows a Member to address an urgent matter affecting their ability to participate. This can be because of discomfort, difficulty hearing someone speak, or other relevant reasons.

Point of Information – Allows a Member to address a pertinent question to the Speaker seeking clarification or other such information regarding the current matter under consideration by the Senate. The Speaker may call upon a Member who is able to provide a more concrete answer if it is relevant.

Point of Order – Allows a Member to raise a concern to the Speaker regarding a possible breach or failure to adhere to the rules or other governing documents. The Speaker shall rule on the matter immediately, do so after brief consultation with Senate staff, or take the matter under advisement.

CHAPTER VI.

HANDLING OF LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

RULE XLIV | Right to introduce a bill or draft resolution

Senators and Executive Officers shall, in accordance with the Constitution, have the right to introduce legislation in the Senate.

RULE XLV | Submission of legislation

(1) A legislative item shall, in order to be considered by the Senate, be submitted to the Speaker through the Clerk in the proper format as prescribed by the Speaker, with the support of the Clerk, with approval of the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership, and added as an appendix to these Rules.

(2) In order for a submission to be completed, Notice shall be given to the Senate that the particular legislative item has been submitted which shall include the full text of the proposed item, accompanied by a brief description of the said item. It is the responsibility of the Member to provide or ensure the provision of the Notice.

RULE XLVI | First reading of a bill

(1) The first reading of a bill shall be its introduction. A bill passes its first reading without debate after its short title is read by the introducing Member, and, if warranted in the eyes of the Speaker or the introducing Member, a brief description of the bill may be orally presented during the introduction. Once the bill has been introduced, the Speaker shall state that the bill has been read once and referred to the relevant committee.

(2) A bill is referred to a committee by the Speaker in accordance with the rules set out herein. A chair acting in place of the Speaker shall reserve a bill for referral to committee to the Speaker. In such a case, the Speaker shall ensure that the referral is made in a timely manner and that the Senate is apprised of the committee to which the certain matter has been referred.

(3) Questions raised regarding a bill on the same sitting day that it has been introduced shall be reserved for the general question period.

RULE XLVII | Second reading of a bill

(1) The second reading of a bill shall take place once it has been introduced and thus completed its first reading, and has been discharged from the committee to which it was referred. At this stage, substantive debate may take place on the actual substance and purpose of the bill, with the proposing member having the responsibility of explaining the purpose and substance of the bill.

(2) Amendments of any nature may be made on the floor during the second reading.

(3) Once debate has concluded, the question shall be put by the Speaker that “the bill be read a second time” unless the bill was once again referred to committee or postponed.

RULE XLVIII | Presentation and promulgation

(1) Upon a bill passing its final reading, it has been passed and approved by the Senate.

(2) The Speaker, following the passage of the final reading, presents the bill to the Association President for promulgation. If promulgation is withheld, the bill returns to the Senate and shall be placed at a stage in the process at the discretion of the Speaker.

RULE XLIX | Expediting Legislative Proposals

(1) A legislative proposal requiring an urgent final decision by the Senate may be submitted as a Motion to Expedite a Proposal. Such a motion is a special motion which must be categorized as a Preliminary Motion.

(2) If the motion is agreed upon by a two-thirds majority, it shall be considered to have passed its First Reading, and shall be taken up as a legislative item considered to be on its Final Reading.

CHAPTER VII. HANDLING OF APPROPRIATIONS

RULE L | Right to introduce measures for appropriations

Senators and Executive Officers shall have the right to introduce measures for appropriations.

RULE LI | Matters constituting appropriations

Business relating to the budget or the disbursement of funds from the reserves, or other such specially disbursed appropriations requiring the full Senate's approval shall be considered as part of the Senate's business regarding Appropriations.

RULE LII | Submission of appropriations measures

An Appropriations Measure shall be submitted to the Speaker through the Clerk, and shall automatically be referred to the Committee on Public Accounts and Appropriations.

RULE LIII | Committee processing

(1) A measure which alters the Annual Budget or calls for the disbursement of funds from the reserves, or is otherwise required in the Bylaws to be decided upon by the full Senate, shall be reviewed by the Committee on Public Accounts and Appropriations, which shall report its Positive Recommendation, Neutral Recommendation, or Denial to the Senate.

(2) A measure which the Committee may unilaterally act upon shall be decided by the Committee itself, and its decision shall be reported to the Senate, stating whether it has Approved or Denied the measure. Alternatively, the Committee may discharge an item for consideration by the full Senate, where a decision cannot be reached in Committee.

(3) A measure which has been denied by a Committee dies in Committee and shall proceed no further.

(4) If the Committee on Public Accounts and Appropriations discharges an item with a positive recommendation, or discharges it with a neutral recommendation for consideration by the full Senate, the item will appear at the next week's Senate meeting, unless the Committee determines that it should appear on the order of business for the upcoming Senate meeting.

RULE LIV | Approval and next steps

If the Senate or the Committee on Public Accounts and Appropriations approves an appropriations measure, the effect of its approval shall be immediate, unless otherwise determined by the Senate or the said Committee.

CHAPTER VIII.

Standing Committees

RULE LV | Establishment of the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership

The Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership shall be a standing committee of the Senate with responsibility for examining and evaluating matters pertaining to the Rules of the Senate and the Membership of the Senate.

RULE LVI | Establishment of the Committee on Legislation

The Committee on Legislation shall be a standing committee of the Senate with responsibility for examining bills and draft resolutions, and other such legislative proposals.

RULE LVII | Establishment of the Committee on Public Accounts and Appropriations

The Committee on Public Accounts and Appropriations shall be a standing committee of the Senate with responsibility for reviewing and examining financial matters, including the budget. It shall also have the authority to audit the accounts and overall financial well-being of the Association.

RULE LVIII | Establishment of the Committee on Support, Accountability and Oversight

(1) The Committee on Accountability and Oversight shall be a standing committee of the Senate with responsibility for routinely exercising the Senate's responsibilities with regard to oversight of Executive Officers, Executive Departments, Offices, and other such entities within the purview of the Executive in order to guarantee accountability of the Executive. It shall additionally have purview to exercise oversight over the judicial branch of the Association, in order to ensure the independence of the judiciary and effective administration of justice within the Association.

(2) The Committee shall meet on a quarterly basis with the Executive Officer and the subordinate Cabinet Officers for each department, in order to assess the status of their operations and to understand any difficulties they may be facing, and any ways in which they may be further supported.

RULE LIX | Constitution of Committees

(1) Each standing committee shall be constituted of at least eight (8) Senators. An exception to this shall exist for the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership, as well as the Committee of the Whole.

(2) The Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership shall be constituted of the Speaker, the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, and the other Chairpersons of standing committees.

(3) The Speaker manages the assignment of committees, and shall do so in an equitable manner, accounting for the input and preferences of Senators as best as they can.

(4) The Speaker shall preside over the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership, whilst each other committee and subcommittee shall nominate a chairperson who shall formally be appointed by the Speaker during a meeting of the Senate.

(5) Committees may designate a vice chairperson as needed. The chairperson of a committee shall ensure that records of decisions are made for the committee.

RULE LX | Meetings to Take Place With Notice In Advance

Where a Committee has business to transact, the Committee Chairperson shall be responsible for notifying the committee members that a meeting is to take place at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.

CHAPTER IX.

Committee of the Whole

RULE LXI | Description of Committee of the Whole

A Committee of the Whole is a committee comprising the membership of the whole Senate, existing for the purpose of deliberation in a slightly less formal manner, though the general rules of the Senate still apply.

RULE LXII | Presiding Officer of the Committee of the Whole

The Principal Deputy Speaker of the Senate is the normal presiding officer of the Committee of the Whole. In their absence, the Speaker or another Deputy Speaker may preside over the Committee, or a Senator, having been designated by the Senate, may preside.

RULE LXIII | Conduct of a Committee of the Whole

(1) The Senate may resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to deliberate on a specific matter, but it does not make any final decisions.

(2) Upon the Senate resolving itself into a Committee of the Whole, the Speaker leaves the chair and calls upon the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole, or another appropriate presiding officer, to chair the Committee of the Whole.

(3) Once the Committee has reached a decision as to its recommendation on the specific matter for which it was convened, it shall rise and report.

(4) The presiding officer of the Committee shall inform the Speaker of the recommendation the Committee has voted to make, and the Speaker, with the Senate now having been reconstituted, shall put the question that the recommendation be adopted.

RULE LXIV | Relevance of speech to purpose of committee

When sitting in a Committee of the Whole, Members shall only speak on matters pertinent to the purpose of the committee sitting.

RULE LXV | Rulings of the Chairman to be appealable to the Speaker

The rulings of the presiding officer of the Committee of the Whole shall be appealable to the Speaker, and shall be raised as a point of order upon the Committee being dissolved and the Senate being reconstituted.

CHAPTER X.

Decorum and Order

RULE LXVI | Expected conduct and decorum of Members

Members of the Senate and other individuals participating in any part of its proceedings shall be expected to conduct themselves in a manner which is respectful and dignified.

RULE LXVII | Unparliamentary language

(1) Language which makes a personal attack, makes an insult against a person or a group of persons, levies an accusation against a person or group, or is of a profane or foul nature shall be out of order.

(2) The Speaker or the chair of a committee shall, when noting the use of unparliamentary language, call for order and, in the case that the unparliamentary language was used by a Member of the Senate, request that the language be retracted and that an apology be made to the Senate.

(3) A Member who refuses to retract the offending language, or fails to make a sufficient apology, shall be referred to the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership for disciplinary action.

RULE LXVIII | Dealing with disruptive individuals

(1) Where a Member, other individual participating in the proceedings of the Senate, or individuals in the gallery act in such a manner causing disruption to proceedings, the Speaker or Committee Chair shall call for order and request that the disruptive behavior ceases.

(2) If the individual fails to cease the disruptive behavior, the Speaker or Committee Chair may order them to withdraw from the chamber or committee meeting room.

(3) A Member whose behavior is seriously disruptive or who fails to comply with the Speaker's order that they withdraw from the chamber for the duration of their need to conduct disruptive behaviors, shall be referred to the Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership for disciplinary action.

RULE LXIX | Respect of time limitations

(1) Members of the Senate and other participants in its proceedings shall adhere to time limitations set forth herein, and shall, in cases where the Speaker places time limitations on speeches during debates, abide by those as well.

(2) The Speaker, when imposing time limitations on speeches, shall do so in accordance with these Rules, and shall do so equitably.

CHAPTER XI.

Formatting Changes to these Rules and Legislation

RULE LXX | Authority to make changes to the formatting of these Rules

- (1) The Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership shall be authorized to make changes to the formatting of these Rules, provided that such changes do not in any way alter the actual meaning of the Rules.
- (2) The Committee shall report any formatting changes to the Senate at their earliest convenience.

RULE LXXI | Authority to make changes to the formatting of bills

- (1) The Committee on Rules, Procedures and Membership shall be authorized to make changes to the formatting of bills prior to their promulgation by the Association President, provided that such changes do not in any way alter the actual meaning of the bill.
- (2) The Committee shall report any formatting changes to the Senate at their earliest convenience.