

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Author(s): Speaker Trinh

Sponsor(s): Chair Mehra and Vice-Chair Syed

Committee: Internal Affairs Committee

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55th Student Government Association Standing Rules

Whereas, Roberts Rules of Order allows for a new set of rules to be proposed along with The Constitution and Bylaws, called the Standing Rules; and

Whereas, The Standing Rules will be established as a set of laws that the Student Government Association will follow once passed; and

Whereas, The Standing Rules will become ineffective at the last Senate meeting of the 55th Administration; and

Whereas, The Standing Rules will be followed in the Senate Meetings, and if there are any infractions to the rules, the Speaker of the Senate can stop discussion in the Senate, now, therefore, be it

Therefore be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association:

That the Standing Rules will be a Governing Document that will be followed in the Student Government Association Senate Meetings.



Cameron Barrett
Student Government President

Date of President's Approval: 9/26/18



Andrew Trinh
Speaker of Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 9/26/18

APPROVED



**55th Administration Student Government
Association Standing Rules**

Standing Rules

Definitions:

Precedence

- The presiding officer must choose legislators to speak based on those who have spoken last (or not at all).

Recency

- The presiding officer must choose legislators who have spoken the least (or not at all).

Geography

- The presiding officer must choose legislators to speak based on whom they see raise their placards first when precedence and recency are not established.
- Precedence and Recency are reset at the beginning of each meeting.

Prefacing

- When members of the Senate, Executive, or Judicial Branches referencing a specific incident or identifiers such as names, or exact place regarding specific occurrences, and if the Presiding officer deems content as damaging to a presenter, then the presiding officer will have the ability to strike the question down.
- If the Senate disagrees with the decision of the presiding officer, the Senate can call for a "consideration to reconsider the previous motion" which would require a majority vote (50%) to override the presiding officer's decision.

Debate

- Once 30 minutes of moderated caucus has passed for a single item, one of three motions must be called:
 1. Move the previous question.
 2. Table for later in the session.
 3. Table for another session
- The presiding officer must choose legislators to speak based off precedence and recency. If precedence and recency are not established, the presiding officer utilizes geography to select legislators to speak.
- Executive and Judicial Members may speak during the time of Moderated Caucus; however, legislators will be prioritized.
- If all of the legislators wishing to speak have spoken at least once (1), only the executive and judicial members will have the opportunity to speak.
- Legislators may give up their speaking time to allow to executive and judicial members time to speak.
- If lack of interest for debate is presented a motion to moving the previous question or tabling the item is suggested.

Voting

- When nominating a candidate for a position, senators must either vote for one of the candidates. Abstentions are not allowed.
- For senators present at a meeting, during voting, once a Senator's name is called, for legislation, that will be their only chance to vote on that legislation. If a Senator does not vote at this time, their vote will be automatically counted as an abstention.

Questioning

- Question Period for legislation and appointees will be 3 minutes long.
- The presiding officer must choose legislators to ask questions based on precedence and recency. If precedence and recency are not established, the presiding officer utilizes geography to select legislators to ask questions.
- If an appointee is being nominated for multiple positions, they will have an additional 3 minutes to speak for each position they are nominated.
- Once an appointee leaves the chamber, that nominee can only be called back for further questioning one (1) time.

Speaking time

- People proposing legislation will be allotted ten (10) minutes to speak.
- Nominees will have 3 minutes to speak. However, if a nominee is appointed for multiple positions, they will have an additional 3 minutes for each of their appointments.

Placards

- Members of the Student Government Association must raise their placards to be recognized.