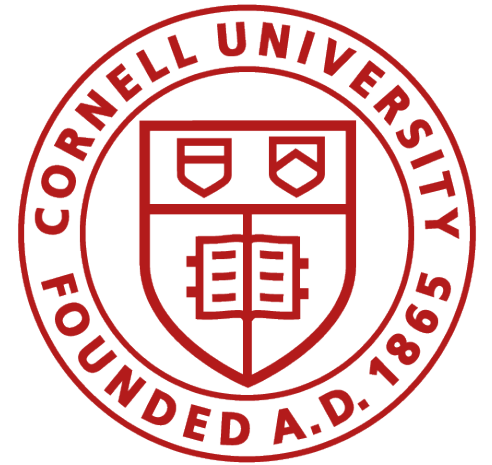


Shared Governance at Cornell University



History of Shared Governance

The assemblies are a part of shared governance at Cornell.

1. Participation in University decision-making by students, faculty and staff in areas of direct and joint concern to them;
2. A forum for discussion of campus issues;
3. Participation in the campus conduct system.

History of Shared Governance

1955

The Board of Trustees transferred the responsibility for non-academic matters to the President of the University.

Prior to this time, it had been the **responsibility of the faculty to make** decisions regarding academic as well as **non-academic policies** and procedures.



History of the Assemblies

- Roots in campus events of 1969
- Major overhauls in 1977 and 1981
- EA, SA created in 1981
- **GPSA created in 1993**
- More prominence for constituent assemblies
- More focused role for the UA



History of the Assemblies



University Assembly meeting

September 19, 2017

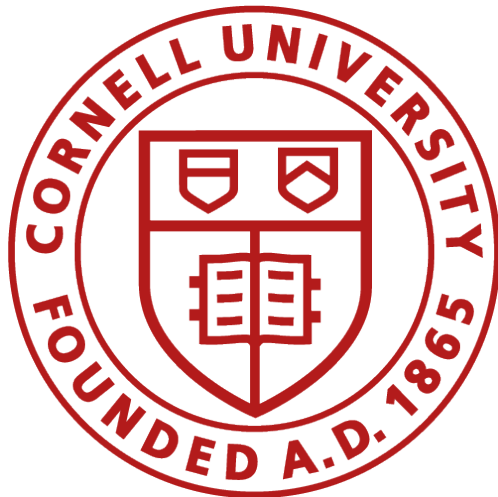
The Constituent-Elected Trustees

Changes over time to current 64-member Board of Trustees

- Faculty and Staff are elected for four-year terms
- Students (alternating between undergraduate and a graduate or professional student) are elected to serve two-year terms



The Cornell Community



7,420
Constituents

8,877
Constituents

14,743
Constituents

2,824
Constituents

33,864
Constituents

Employee Assembly

35 Staff Members

Grad & Professional Student Assembly

36 Graduate & Prof Student
Members

Student Assembly

30 Undergraduate Student Members

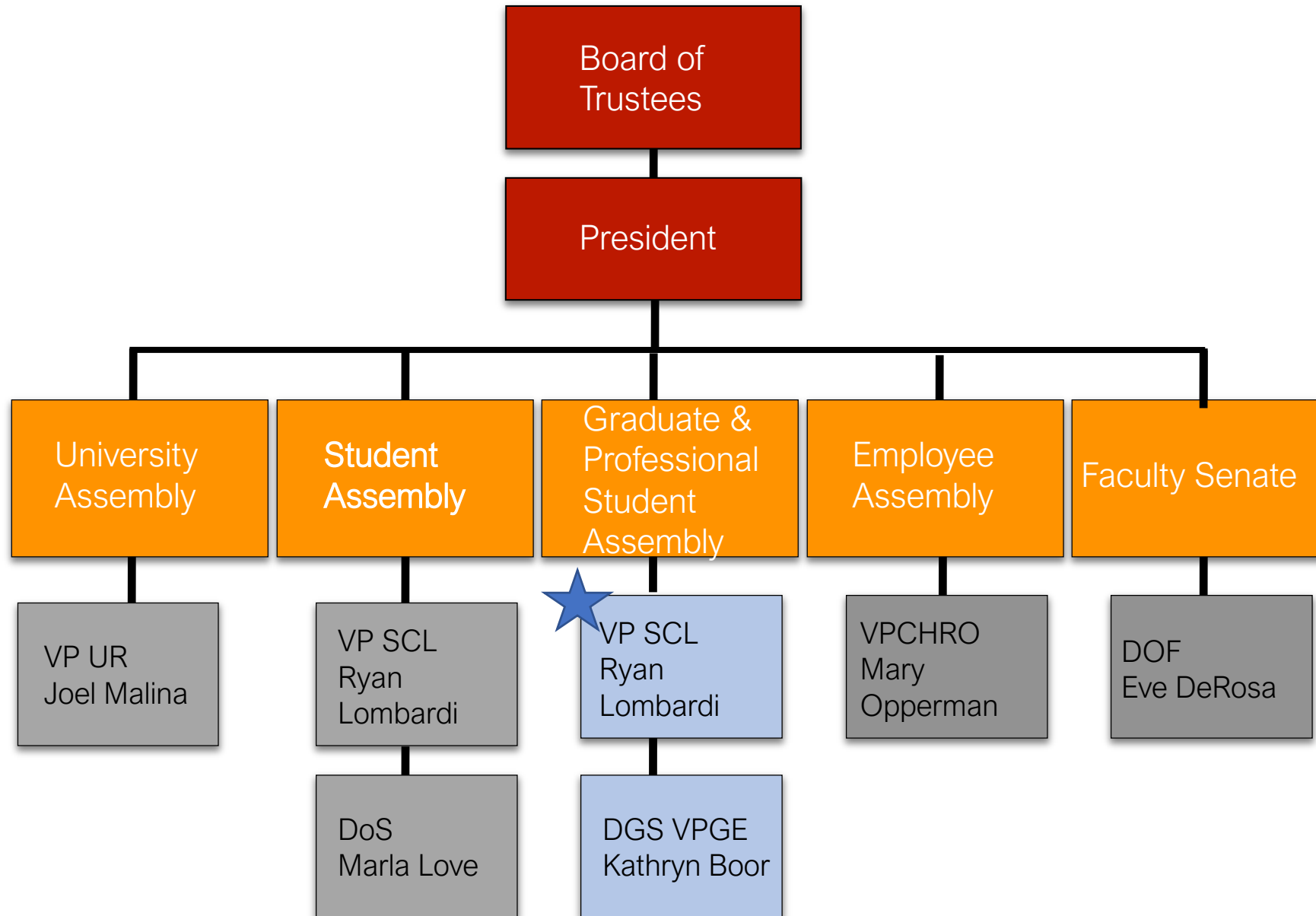
Faculty Senate

130 Faculty Senators

University Assembly

20 Voting members: 5 staff, 5 grad/
professional students, 5 undergraduates, 5
faculty

Administrative Structure



Structure of Shared Governance

Student Assembly (SA)

Undergraduate students

Employee Assembly (EA)

Non-faculty employees in Ithaca, Geneva, and Cornell Tech

Graduate & Professional Student Assembly (GPSA)

Graduate and professional students of Geneva and Ithaca with a liaison at Cornell Tech

University Assembly (UA)

All Constituencies (including Faculty)

Faculty Senate (FS)

Faculty. (Supported by the Office of the Dean of the Faculty)

Legislative Authority of the Assemblies

Specifically:

Student Assembly (SA)

- Campus Life
- Student & Academic Services

Employee Assembly (EA)

- Human Resources
- Personnel Policy

University Assembly (UA)

- Student Code of Conduct (procedural participation)
- University Hearing & Review Panels
- Transportation & Parking
- Campus Planning

Graduate & Professional Student Assembly (GPSA)

- Graduate School
- Non-academic Policies

Legislative Authority of the Assemblies

- Originates by **delegation from the President** and Board of Trustees
- Authority is **delegated, not transferred**
- **Assemblies have advisory authority**, subject to approval by the president
- **Assemblies make recommendations**, which are reviewed by the president in consultation with senior staff.

Budget and Finances

Administrative Budget

The University allocates funds for each assembly:

- SA & GPSA: from **Student Activity Fee**
- EA and UA: from Office of the Assemblies budget
- Assembly leadership develops a budget proposal in consultation with the Office of the Assemblies
- Assembly adopts the budget as regular legislation
- Office of the Assemblies manages finances according to the budget adopted by the assembly

The Office of the Assemblies

- Provides administrative support and financial oversight to the Assemblies, and their respective committees.
- A fundamental mission of the OA is to engage constituencies across campus and increase participation in the shared governance process and voice effectively the interests and concerns of the non-academic members of the campus community.
- Maintains channels and processes for the members' continuous involvement in the decision-making process of the University, and proactive improvement to the quality of life on campus.



The Office of the Assemblies

- Provides staff for regular assembly meetings with a student clerk (**Corel!**) who:
 - Prepares documents and meeting packets for the assembly meetings
 - prepares minutes of meetings,
 - prepares audio recordings of meetings, and,
 - posts meeting materials on the assembly's website;
- assists the assembly in reservation of spaces and other resources for regular meetings;
- maintains websites for the assembly and its standing committees, including documents produced by the assembly and its committees, rosters of membership, information about the composition of the committees and how to get involved, and applications for membership.

Rules & Procedures

Going Through the Motions
or
Who is **Robert**, Anyway?!

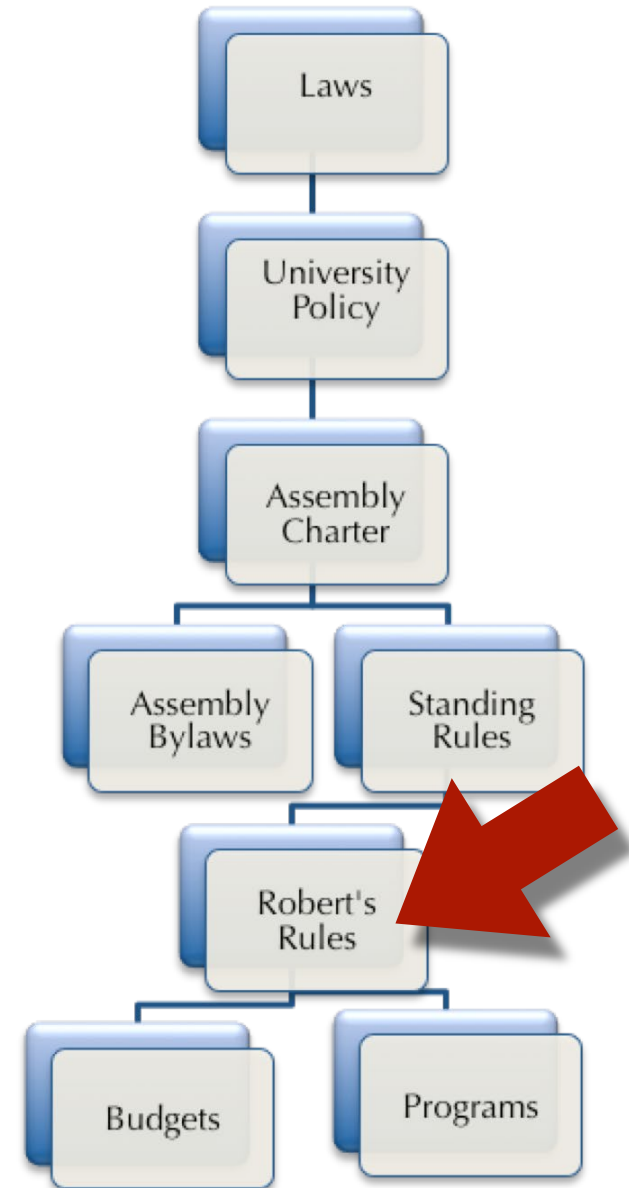
Rules & Governing Documents

Robert's Rules of Order



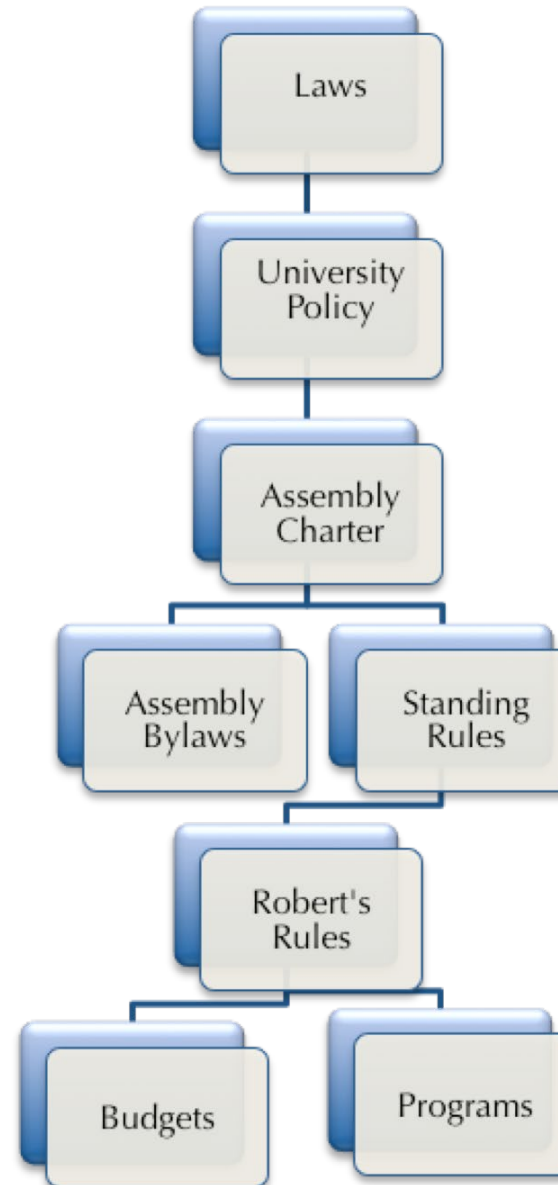
Original edition published in 1876 by US Army Brigadier General Henry Martyn Robert after a **bad experience leading a church meeting.**

We do not want to waste time with excessive formality, but some of our **issues may be contentious and we need to ensure everyone gets their fair opportunity to speak.**



Rules & Governing Documents

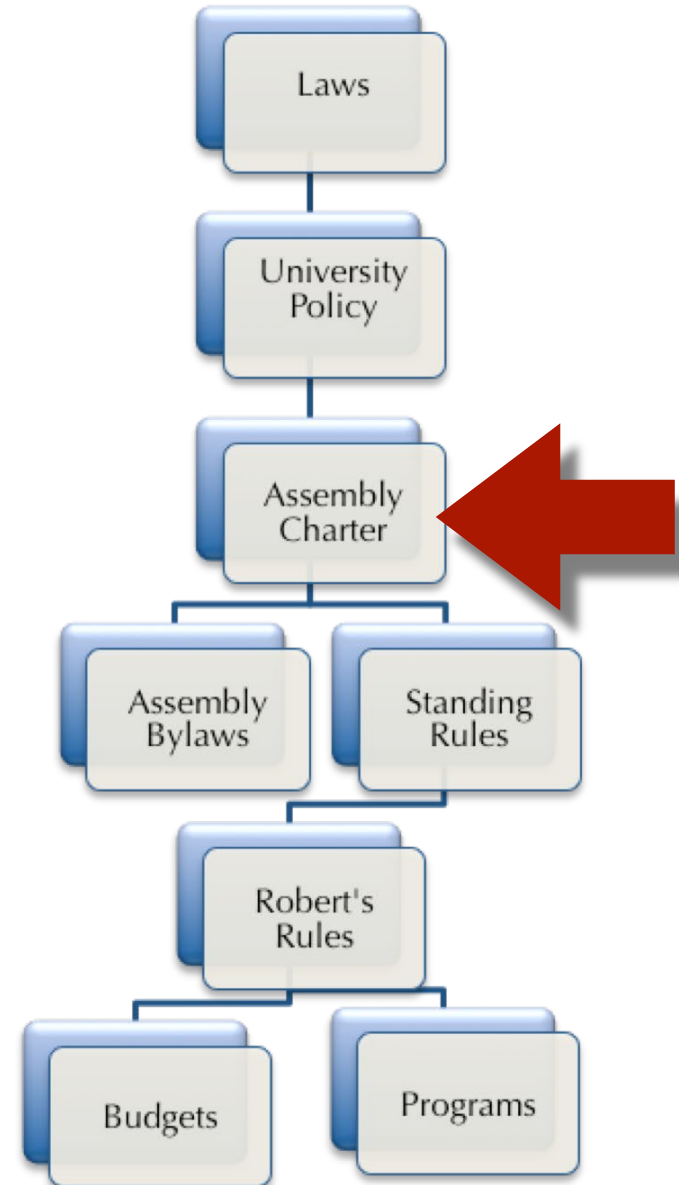
- Assembly **Charter**: permanent, basic rules
- Assembly **Bylaws**: permanent, detailed rules
- **Standing rules**: year-to-year procedures
- **Program rules**: (i.e., GPSA Finance Commissions)



Rules & Governing Documents

Assembly Charter: permanent, basic rules

- Basic rules of the assembly
- Establishes powers and responsibilities
- Specifies officers, qualifications for memberships
- Provides committee structure
- Stringent amendment requirements, must be approved by the president of the university



Rules & Governing Documents

Assembly **Bylaws**: permanent, detailed rules

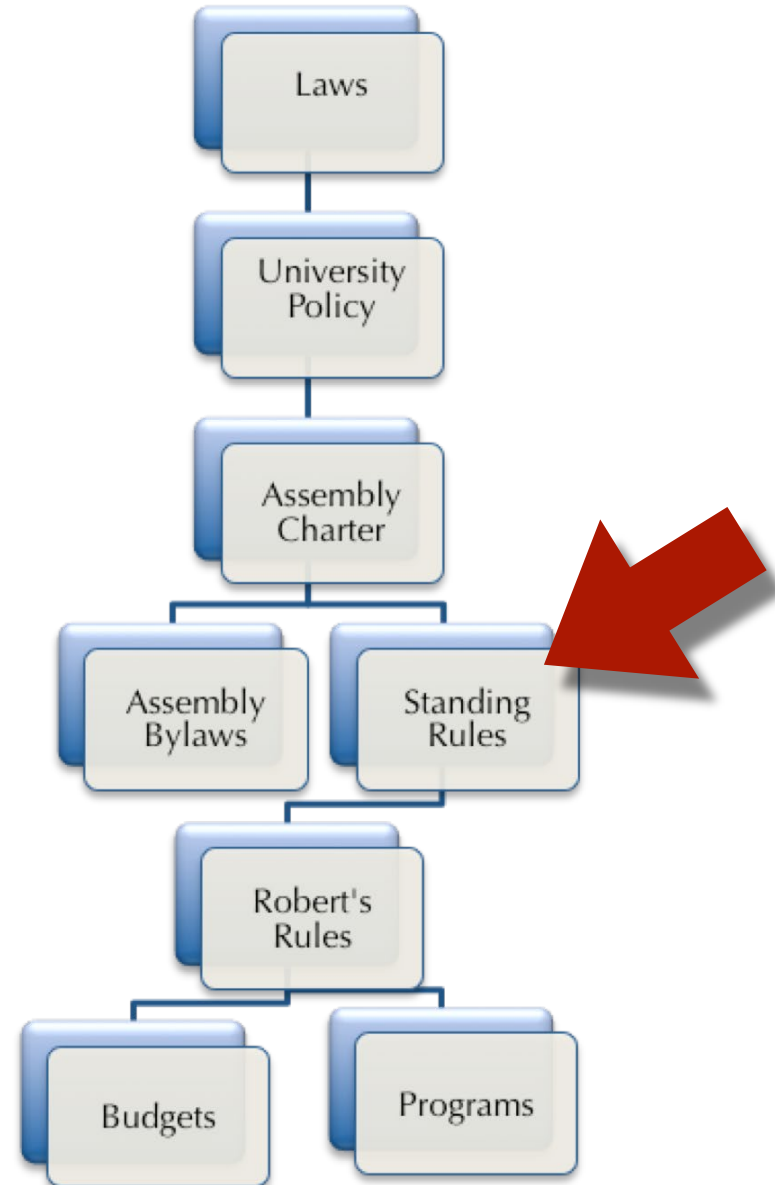
- Detailed procedures and rules for assembly and committee operations
- Usually amended by simple majority
- Persists year-to-year



Rules & Governing Documents

Standing rules: year-to-year procedures

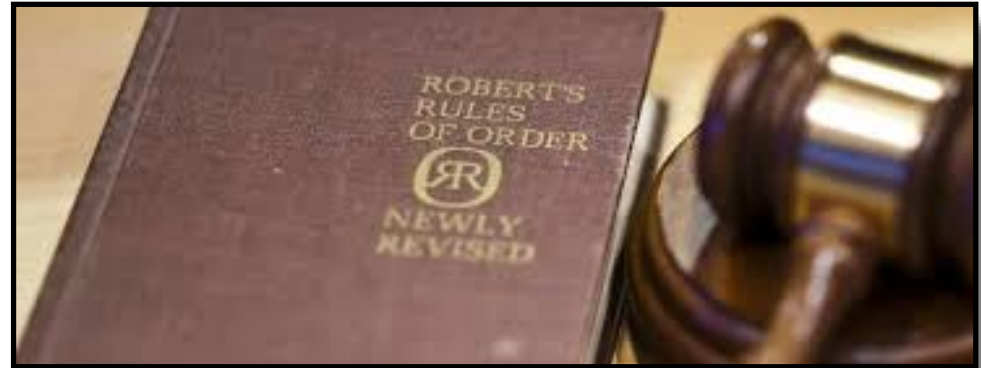
- Same force and effect as Bylaws
- Must be renewed each year by the newly seated Assembly
- Focus on procedures of the Assembly, how meetings are conducted
- Approved by the Assembly



Rules & Procedures

Basic Principles

- Courtesy and Justice for all
- Consideration of only one subject at a time
- Rights of absent members must be protected
- The minority must be heard
- The will of the majority must prevail



Rules & Procedures

Basic Concepts

- Quorum
- Motion
- "On the floor"
- "Having the floor"
- Executive session



Legislative Process

Robert's Rules - Scenario

Going through the motions

1. A voting member **makes a motion**
2. Another voting member **“seconds” the motion**
3. The chair puts the motion on the floor by restating it and **allowing for debate**
4. The chair **puts the motion to a vote when debate ends** or after a (secondary) motion to call the “previous question”
5. The chair **announces the result of the vote.**

Legislative Process

When Debating Your Motions

- Listen to the other side
- Focus on the issues, not personalities
- Avoid questioning motives
- Be polite!

Legislative Process

What's on Your Mind?

(things to do before writing a resolution!)

1. **Develop** the initiative/topic that you want to address
2. **Search** for a legislative history surrounding the issue
3. **Solicit** feedback from assembly members and your constituents
 - a. (Remember, you represent other people!)
4. **Engage Stakeholders** for information
 - a. Administrators
 - b. Classmates/Colleagues
 - c. Assembly Committees
 - d. Community

Legislative Process

Quick Checklist

- ✓ Checked for legislative history
- ✓ Polled constituents
- ✓ Presented at all relevant committees
- ✓ Solicited feedback from relevant university offices
- ✓ Have support from as many members as possible
- ✓ Issue is still unresolved

By this point, you should have a pretty good idea of how the debate and vote will go before your resolution comes to the floor.

Shared Governance

THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?