

# Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Standing Rules

## ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY

### Section 1.01: Establishment

- a. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Standing Rules are established in accordance with the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter Article VII.

### Section 1.02: Authority

- a. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Standing Rules are granted authority in accordance with the Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter Article VII.

## ARTICLE II: DEFINITIONS

### Section 2.01: GPSA Standing Rules Document Definitions

- a. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is hereafter referred to as the GPSA.
- b. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter hereafter is referred to as the GPSA Charter.
- c. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Bylaws hereafter are referred to as the GPSA Bylaws.
- d. The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Standing Rules hereafter are referred to as the GPSA Standing Rules.
- e. Motions are classified as main, subsidiary, incidental, and privileged in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition).
  - i. Unless otherwise specified, the term "motion" includes resolutions.

## Article III: Business

### Section 3.01: Introducing Resolutions

- a. Upon introducing a resolution in accordance with GPSA Bylaws §4.04(B), a sponsor (or sponsors) shall provide the Assembly with a suitable means of reviewing the resolution.
  - i. The preferred method of review is displaying the text of the resolution via projection or similar means.
  - ii. Other methods of review, including reading the resolution aloud, are presumed acceptable but may be objected to via a Point of the Assembly's Privilege.
    - A. Exceptions:
      1. Smoke signals are not an acceptable method of review due to the University Fire Code and the lack of windows in the usual venue.
      2. Choreographed ensemble musical numbers are expressly forbidden on the grounds of good taste.
- b. The sponsor will conduct a question-and-answer session on the text of the resolution.
  - i. The question-and-answer session will address the content of the resolution only.
  - ii. Only privileged and incidental motions are in order during the question-and-answer session.
  - iii. During the question-and-answer session, the sponsor may alter the text of the resolution at will to reflect input from the Assembly or their own judgment.
  - iv. The question-and-answer session shall end
    - A. At the discretion of the sponsor (or sponsors, unanimously),
    - B. At the discretion of the Chair, or

- C. When there are no further questions.
- c. Once the question-and-answer session has ended, further alterations to the resolution must be made by motion to amend.
- d. When a resolution calls on the Assembly to adopt or endorse an attached document or documents, subsections (a) through (c) apply to the document(s) as well.

## Section 3.02: Unanimous Consent

- a. Definition: Unanimous consent allows an uncontroversial motion to pass without a vote.
  - i. A motion by unanimous consent does not require a second.
  - ii. A motion by unanimous consent does not require a vote but passes automatically except as described in (c).
  - iii. Any motion may be made by unanimous consent except for the following:
    - A. Resolutions
- b. Operation: To move by unanimous consent, a member states "I move by unanimous consent..." and states their motion as normal.
  - i. The Chair may also, at their discretion, convert a motion to one by unanimous consent by calling for unanimous consent before or after it is seconded.
- c. Objection: Any member of the assembly who opposes a motion by unanimous consent may object to its adoption by declaring their objection when the Chair asks for dissent.
  - i. If an objection is made, the motion requires a second and a vote as normal for that motion.

## Section 3.03: Friendly Amendments:

- a. Definition: A friendly amendment is one that the sponsor or movant considers in line with the purpose of their motion and wishes to be adopted.
  - i. A friendly amendment does not require a second.
  - ii. A friendly amendment does not require a vote but passes automatically except as described in (c).
- b. Operation: The sponsor of a motion (or sponsors, unanimously) may, upon a motion to amend, declare that they accept the amendment as friendly.
  - i. A member who moves to amend a resolution may similarly, upon a motion to amend the amendment, declare that they accept the amendment as friendly.
- c. Objection: Any member of the assembly who disagrees with a friendly amendment may object to its designation as friendly by declaring their objection after the amendment is declared friendly.
  - i. If an objection is made, the motion requires a second and a vote as normal for that motion.

## Section 3.04: Recognition

- a. A member or visitor may be recognized ordinarily by raising their placard or hand, respectively, to be added to a Speakers' List; called upon by the Chair, a resolution's sponsor, or a guest of the Assembly to ask a question; and so forth.
- b. When asserting privilege, whether to make a privileged motion or to raise a point of privilege, a member or visitor may either:
  - i. Raise their placard opened to show the reverse side, or
  - ii. Stand without speaking.

# Article IV: Form of Debate

## Section 4.1: Speakers' Lists

- a. The Chair, at their own discretion, may wait to implement a Speakers' List if debate is so brief and uncontentious that members' ability to be heard will not be impeded by the lack of a Speakers' List.

- i. The Chair should err on the side of caution and implement a Speakers' List if any question arises as to whether it is needed.
  - ii. Any member may request the use of a Speakers' List at any time as a Point of the Assembly's Privilege.
- b. The default parameters of a Speakers' List are as follows:
  - i. Unless a motion is made otherwise, speakers on the Speakers' List shall receive a 30-second speaking time.
  - ii. Unless a motion is made otherwise, debate on a motion shall be capped at 3 complete Speakers' Lists.
- c. Any motion to alter the parameters of the Speakers' List must pass by supermajority.

## **Article V: Changes to and Suspension of the Standing Rules**

### **Section 5.1: Changes to the Standing Rules**

- a. The Standing Rules may be amended by a supermajority vote of Voting Members.
- b. The Standing Rules may be rescinded by a supermajority vote of Voting Members.

### **Section 5.2: Suspension of the Standing Rules**

- a. The Standing Rules may be suspended by a majority vote of Voting Members.
  - i. The Standing Rules may be suspended by Rule, by Section, by Article, or in their entirety.
  - ii. The Standing Rules may be reinstated during the same session by a majority vote of Voting Members.
  - iii. A suspension of the Standing Rules expires at the end of the session in which it occurs.

### **Section 5.3: Inseverability of Article V**

- a. Article V may not be suspended, amended, or rescinded, either in part or in its entirety, except by rescinding the Standing Rules as described in § 5.1(b).