



Standing Rules

Cornell University

Graduate and Professional Student Assembly

ARTICLE I: ESTABLISHMENT AND AUTHORITY

1: Establishment

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

2: Authority

1. 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

1: The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly is hereafter referred to as the GPSA.

2: The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Charter hereafter is referred to as the GPSA Charter.

3: The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Bylaws hereafter are referred to as the GPSA Bylaws.

4: The Graduate and Professional Student Assembly Standing Rules hereafter are referred to as the GPSA Standing Rules.

5: Motions are classified as main, subsidiary, incidental, and privileged in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order (latest edition).

- a. Unless otherwise specified, the term "motion" includes resolutions.

6: Members as specified in the GPSA Charter, Article IV.

Article III: FORMS OF MOTIONS

1: Introduction of 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.

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.



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- 37 ii. Only privileged and incidental motions are in order during the question-and-answer
38 session.
- 39 iii. During the question-and-answer session, the sponsor may alter the text of the resolution
40 at will to reflect input from the Assembly or their own judgment.
- 41 iv. The question-and-answer session shall end
- 42 A. At the discretion of the sponsor (or sponsors, unanimously),
- 43 B. At the discretion of the Chair, or
- 44 C. When there are no further questions.
- 45 c. Once the question-and-answer session has ended, further alterations to the resolution must
46 be made by motion to amend.
- 47 d. When a resolution calls on the Assembly to adopt or endorse an attached document or
48 documents, subsections (a) through (c) apply to the document(s) as well.
- 49 2: Friendly Amendments
- 50 a. A friendly amendment is one that the movant whose motion is to be amended considers in
51 line with the purpose of their motion and wishes to be adopted.
- 52 i. A friendly amendment does not require a second.
- 53 ii. A friendly amendment does not require a vote but passes automatically except as
54 described in (c).
- 55 b. The sponsor of a motion (or sponsors, unanimously) may, upon a motion to amend, declare
56 that they accept the amendment as friendly.
- 57 i. A member who moves to amend a resolution may similarly, upon a motion to amend the
58 amendment, declare that they accept the amendment as friendly.
- 59 c. Any member of the assembly who disagrees with a friendly amendment may object to its
60 designation as friendly by declaring their objection after the amendment is declared friendly.
- 61 i. If an objection is made, the motion requires a second and a vote as normal for that
62 motion.
- 63 3: Unanimous Consent
- 64 a. Unanimous consent allows an uncontroversial motion to pass without a vote.
- 65 i. A motion by unanimous consent does not require a second.
- 66 ii. A motion by unanimous consent does not require a vote but passes automatically except
67 as described in (c).
- 68 iii. Any motion may be made by unanimous consent except for the following:
- 69 A. Resolutions
- 70 b. To move by unanimous consent, a member states “I move by unanimous consent...” and
71 states their motion as normal.
- 72 i. The Chair may also, at their discretion, convert a motion to one by unanimous consent
73 by calling for unanimous consent before or after it is seconded.
- 74 c. Any member of the assembly who opposes a motion by unanimous consent may object to
75 its adoption by declaring their objection when the Chair asks for dissent.



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76 i. If an objection is made, the motion requires a second and a vote as normal for that
77 motion.
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79 **Article IV: FORM OF DEBATE**

80 1: Discretion of the Chair in implementing Speakers' Lists

81 a. At the Chair's discretion, they may wait to implement a Speakers' List if debate is so
82 uncontentious that members' ability to be heard will not be impeded by the lack of a
83 Speakers' List.

84 i. The Chair should err on the side of caution and implement a Speakers' List if any
85 question arises as to whether it is needed.

86 ii. Any member may request implementation of a Speakers' List at any time as a Point of
87 the Assembly's Privilege.

88 2: Default Parameters of the Speakers' List

89 a. Unless a motion is made otherwise, speakers on the Speakers' List shall receive a 30-second
90 speaking time.

91 b. Unless a motion is made otherwise, debate on a motion shall be capped at 3 complete
92 Speakers' Lists.

93 c. Any motion to alter the parameters of the Speakers' List must pass by supermajority.
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95 **Article V: CHANGES TO AND SUSPENSION OF THE STANDING RULES**

96 1: Changes to the Standing Rules

97 a. The Standing Rules may be amended by a supermajority vote of Voting Members.

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

99 2: Suspension of the Standing Rules

100 a. The Standing Rules may be suspended by a majority vote of Voting Members.

101 i. The Standing Rules may be suspended by Rule, by Section, by Article, or in their
102 entirety.

103 ii. The Standing Rules may be reinstated during the same session by a majority vote of
104 Voting Members.

105 iii. A suspension of the Standing Rules expires at the end of the session in which it occurs.

106 3: Inseverability of Article V

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