



US SENATE MODUS OPERANDI

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GENERAL RULES

A. SCOPE AND APPLICATION

These rules of procedure or “Senatorial Procedure” are applicable to the United States Senate committees at BAMUN. No other rules apply. This Senatorial Procedure is an altered version of the traditional and real-world procedure of the United States Senate. It is adapted for BAMUN and to fit the unique nature of BAMUN’s novel Senate Committee.

B. PRESIDING OFFICERS

In the United States Senate committee at BAMUN XXV, the Presiding Officer shall be the President of the Senate, or Director of the committee, as appointed by the Secretariat. The Presiding Officers are the final authority on all Senatorial conduct and procedure and have the authority to suspend and/or alter this senatorial procedure at any time. Thus, both will be addressed as and considered the Presiding Officer when presiding over the chamber. The Presiding Officer in the Senate will preside over debate, guide its flow, rule on and enforce Senatorial Procedure, and guide senators if needed.

C. ADDRESSING THE CHAMBER

Senators are prohibited from directly addressing other Senators or addressing senators in the first person in speeches made to the chamber. All forms of speech on the Senate floor must be addressed directly to the Presiding Officer/President of the Senate. The form of address shall take the form of “Mister or Madam President.” When a senator chooses to refer to another on the floor, he must address that senator in the third person. Senators must be addressed by their leadership position or their state. For example, one must refer to Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX) as “the Senator from Texas” or Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer as “The Majority Leader.”

PROCEDURE

A. ROLL CALL

The Presiding Officers must call every senator to be present to determine whether there is a quorum or not. As the chair calls each senator, the senators should raise their placards and answer, “PRESENT” or “PRESENT AND VOTING”.

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Following the roll call and the determination of a present quorum, the President shall lead the committee and all senators in collectively reciting the United States Pledge of Allegiance: *“I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.”*

C. AGENDA

The Agenda should be opened on the first day of committee work with the motion: “Motion to Open the Agenda”. At the end of each day the Agenda should be suspended with the motion, “Motion to Suspend the Agenda,” and on the last day of the conference, the Agenda is finally closed through a “Motion to Close the Agenda.”

D. OPENING REMARKS

A space is opened for senators to read their respective Opening Remarks in which they should state their position on the topic. Senators will be called in alphabetical state order and will be given one minute and a half to read their speech. Opening remarks are mandatory.

E. SESSION

After reading the Opening Remarks, the Presidents will entertain a “Motion to Open Session.” This motion should be done as follows: “Motion to Open Session with [Topic] (saying the complete name of the topic.)” The Session is suspended with a “Motion to Suspend the Session” each time the senators leave the committee to take a recess. The

Session is closed through a “Motion to Close the Session” only when the chosen topic has been debated and the working papers have been voted.

F. FORMAL DEBATE (SPEAKER’S LIST)

After starting the Session, protocol indicates a formal debate must be initiated. This gives senators the opportunity to expand their position regarding the topic at hand. The Formal Debate or Speakers List is initiated through a “Motion to Open a Speakers’ List” (including the time per senator and the number of points of information that can be made to the senators). Ex: “Motion to Open Speakers’ List, one minute and a half per speaker and 2 Points of Information per intervention.” The Presiding Officers will entertain this motion and will modify the time per speaker and the Points of Information if necessary. The motion will be voted on immediately and requires a simple majority to pass.

- A senator will be placed on this list by raising their placard while seated, or by sending a note to the Presidents.
- A senator will be called upon to address the Senate when their name appears next on the Speakers’ List. No senator may address a session without recognition from the Presidents.
- The Speakers’ List is always open and can only be suspended through a “Motion to Suspend the Speakers’ List.” To renew the Speakers’ List, a “Motion to Renew the Speakers’ List” must take place.
- If any senator did not have the chance to speak because the Speaker’s List was suspended, after its renewal, these senators will be at the beginning of the list, and any other senator that wishes to speak will go afterwards.

G. MODERATED CAUCUS (INFORMAL DEBATE)

The purpose of the Moderated Caucus is to facilitate substantive debate at critical junctures in the discussion. The Senate will temporarily depart from the Speakers’ List through a “Motion to Suspend the Speakers’ List” and start a moderated caucus through a “Motion to Open a Moderated Caucus.” From this moment on, the President will call on senators to speak at his discretion. When making the motion, the senator must state a time limit for the caucus. The motion will be voted on immediately and requires a simple

majority to pass. The Presiding officers may consider this motion out of order. Motions to extend debate require a simple majority to pass. Points of information to the speaker are not permitted during the informal debate unless the chairs consider the intervention of utmost importance to the Senate.

H. UNMODERATED CAUCUS (LOBBY)

An Unmoderated Caucus is used specifically to start writing and discussing working papers. A time limit must be specified. Unless the Chair considers it out of order, this motion shall proceed to an immediate vote, requiring a simple majority to pass. During an Unmoderated Caucus, formal rules are suspended, and members may discuss issues informally in the official language of the committee.

I. PARTY CAUCUS

When the floor is open, senators may also motion for party caucuses, in which members of the Senate seclude themselves into their own parties and proceed to their respective designated cloak rooms. During party caucuses, senators are permitted to freely interact with their party members but cannot interact with members of another party. Party caucuses are ideal for senators to strategize among their party members, collaborate on bills, and generally discuss senatorial matters within the party. A senator motioning for a party caucus must specify a time limit, and the Presiding Officer shall rule on the maximum allowable time at their discretion. Motions for party caucuses require a simple majority in favor to pass.

J. FILIBUSTER

A motion for filibuster can be presented by any Senator when the Presidents calls for motions and requires a simple majority to pass. If passed, it grants the Senator who motioned for the filibuster a speech lasting up to 5 minutes. There are two primary purposes of a motion for a filibuster.

- a. A Senator can use a filibuster to give a more detailed argument on a contentious issue. If it is used in this manner, it is expected that the speech is focussed and content-heavy. If the dais determines a Senator is failing to do so, it retains the

right to cut the Senator's time short.

- b. The more common and recommended use of a filibuster is to stall the committee and buy your party more time to complete bills or other initiatives. The committee may decide to cut the Senator off at any point during their speech as long as half the committee has signed off, and the President approves. This action is called a cloture and results in the speaker's time elapsing

K. CLOTURE

When the floor is open for motions and points, after a minimum of three-fifths of the total time allocation for debate, a senator may enter a motion to terminate any concurrent debate on a substantive or procedural matter such as a topic area, bill on the floor, or an amendment and immediately proceed to a vote on the matter. Following such a motion, at the Presiding Officer's discretion, senators will vote on the motion for cloture. Should it achieve a three-fifths majority in favor, the motion shall pass and voting procedure will immediately be entered on the substantive matter.

L. BILLS

A Draft Bill is a preliminary document used for the discussion and formulation of legislation. A Draft Bill is not formally introduced to the Senate and is not subject to a vote. Draft Bills must be approved by the Chair and must have the support of at least two-thirds of the Senate as sponsors or signatories. Draft Bills are a step below formal legislation, and multiple drafts are often combined into a single bill for further debate and consideration.

M. RESOLUTIONS

The goal of a committee is the drafting and debate of bills. A bill shall not be introduced to the Senate until it has been typed, authorized by the President, and displayed.

- To introduce a bill, a motion must be made. At this time, no substantive comments are in order, but the Presiding Officers may allow the senator introducing the bill to correct any typographical errors in the displayed copy of the document. Afterwards, the senators introducing the bill may open themselves

to a maximum of three Points of Information concerning substantive matters, and once these have been answered, the bill might be open for a Formal or Informal Debate depending on the President's consideration. In case there is a debate, a new Speakers' List shall be opened through a motion, with senators in favor and against. A resolution must have a minimum of seven sponsors. Sponsors are those members who present the bill to the Chair. A bill must also have a minimum number of signatories, such as the total of sponsors and signatories together equals or exceeds two thirds of the members of the committee. Signatories are members who consent to the introduction of the resolution; signatories have no further rights or obligations.

- Any senator(s) wishing to be added to the list of sponsors must have the approval of all existing sponsors. Upon receipt of such an approval, the Presidents shall announce the addition of the new sponsor(s) to the resolution.
- Sponsors of a bill may not vote against their resolution. However, they may withdraw their sponsorship before the commencement of voting on that bill. If all the sponsors of a bill withdraw their support, the Presiding Officers may solicit other senators to sponsor it. If there are no sponsors, the bill cannot be considered for debate and shall be considered rejected. There shall only be one bill on the floor at a time.
- A bill requires a simple majority vote for approval in the Senate.
- A Motion to Table a bill can only be made immediately after the bill has been introduced to the Senate. If the Presidents decide to accept the motion, a debate will be opened with two speakers in favor and two speakers against the motion, which will then be put to vote and will only pass with a two-thirds majority.

N. AMENDMENTS

- An amendment shall not be introduced to the Senate until the Presidents have approved it.
- A senator may move to amend any resolution that has been introduced. There are two types of amendments:

1. Friendly Amendments

If an amendment to a resolution receives the approval of all the sponsors, the amendment is automatically incorporated into the resolution upon introduction to the Senate. It is not required for the signatories to approve of the amendment.

2. Unfriendly Amendments

An amendment that does not have the approval of all the sponsors is considered an Unfriendly Amendment. It then passes to be voted upon by the entire Senate. An Unfriendly amendment suspends debate on the bill. If considered necessary the Presidents shall recognize at least one speaker for and one speaker against the amendment. The speakers may yield or take questions. The President may apply a time limit. The amendment is then voted upon, unless a senator moves to extend debate on the amendment.

- Motion to extend debate on an amendment requires a simple majority to pass. The Motion to Extend Debate has the effect of the President recognizing two more speakers for and two more speakers against the amendment.
- The Presidents may limit the number of amendments to a bill or may recommend that multiple senators move to amend a resolution caucus for the purposes of consolidation. The Presidents may rule any amendment out of order if, in their opinion, it drastically alters the intent of the resolution. Amendments to amendments are not in order.
- An amendment requires a simple majority vote for passage in the Senate.

O. DIVISION OF THE QUESTION

After debate closes on a bill or amendment, a senator may move that the sections of the bill or amendment be voted upon individually. The motion will immediately be voted upon and requires a simple majority to pass. If the motion passes, the sections of the proposal shall be voted upon individually. No further vote is required on the sections that pass. If all the sections of the bill are rejected, the bill is considered rejected.

P. VOTING

Prior to the commencement of voting on substantive matters, all members shall take their seats and the doors to the room shall be closed. No one shall be permitted to enter or leave the room during the conduct of the vote. No points may interrupt, except points directly concerned with the conduct of the Voting Procedure (Points of Order).

- Each senator seated in the Senate shall have one vote. Senators that abstain from voting shall not be considered in reckoning the totals needed to determine the results of the vote. For a resolution to pass in a Committee, a 50% + 1 majority vote is required. Issues resulting in a tie vote shall be considered defeated.
- Each senator, when called upon, must call out: “In Favor,” “In Favor with Reasons,” “Against,” “Against with Reason,” “Abstain,” “Abstain with Reasons,” or “Pass.” Once the roll has been called, the President shall call the names of those senators that passed the first time. Those senators will have an opportunity to enter a vote. If a senator passes twice, its vote shall be recorded as an abstention. senators who, during attendance, answered “Present and Voting” may not abstain when voting for a bill.
- Once the votes have been taken, the President shall announce the outcome of the voting. Then, subject to the approval of the President, senators who voted “In Favor with Reasons”, “Against with Reasons”, or “Abstain with Reasons” have the right to explain their votes or abstentions. The Presidents will establish the time for each speaker.

Q. RECONSIDERATION

A Motion to Reconsider is in order when a bill or amendment has been adopted or rejected, and must be made by a member who voted with the majority on the substantive proposal. A two-thirds majority of the members present and voting is required for reconsideration.

R. RECESS AND ADJOURNMENT

At any time, a senator may move to recess a session. The senator must state the time for recess. The motion shall be put to an immediate two-thirds majority vote. If passed, the

Senate is in recess until the time stated expires. A senator may move to adjourn the meeting of the Senate. Such a motion is out of order before the lapse of three-quarters of the time allotted for the meeting of the Senate. This motion shall be put to an immediate vote, and if passed by a two-thirds majority, will end the meeting of the Senate for the remainder of the day. The Chair may consider a Motion to Recess or Adjourn out of order.