



# USGA Rules Governing Debate



## Standing Order 2

*In order to more efficiently and effectively conduct business the USGA does hereby adopt the following:*

**Purpose:** This Standing Order contains the rules for the conduct of proceedings within the University Student Government Association (hereinafter "USGA") and for the exercise of powers granted to the USGA under its Bylaws. This standing order is not intended to modify or change any of the rights, privileges, or powers contained in the USGA Bylaws or Constitution.

**Interpretation:**

1. The President and Parliamentarian are responsible for ruling on any question that arises as to the interpretation or application of Standing Order 2. Interpretation of Standing Order 2 shall be made in accordance with the USGA Bylaws and the most recent edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

**Suspension of Standing Order:**

2. The rules contained within Standing Order 2 may be suspended only upon motion by a duly elected USGA Senator and by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

**Conduct During Debate:**

3. Debate within the USGA Senate is to be conducted with courtesy, civility, and professionalism.

**Rules Governing Debate:**

4. There shall not be debate within the USGA Senate in the absence of a motion properly made by a duly elected USGA Senator.

5. Debate shall not exceed Fifteen (15) minutes on any main motion or Five (5) minutes on any amendment to a motion. Debate may be extended only upon motion by a USGA Senator and by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

6. Senators and Non-voting members may speak only one (1) time on any motion before the USGA Senate. A Senator does not have the power to yield his right to speak to any other Senator or Non-voting member in the Senate.

7. Senators and Non-voting members may speak for only two (2) minutes on any motion. If a Senator or Non-voting member yields the floor before utilizing the entire two (2) minutes, the Senator or Non-voting member is presumed to have waived the right to the time not used. If a Senator or Non-voting member yields to another member of the Senate for a question or comment, the time consumed for the question is charged to the Senator or Non-voting member speaking.

8. Senators and Non-voting members will not be allowed to speak longer than two (2) minutes unless upon motion by a duly elected USGA Senator and by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

9. A Senator or Non-voting member may be allowed to speak again only to explain some material part of their speech which has been misquoted, misunderstood, or misrepresented in the same debate. A Senator or Non-voting member may not introduce any new matter or interrupt any other member of the Senate to explain a misquotation, misunderstanding, or misrepresentation.

10. A motion that has already been decided upon may not be reconsidered by the Senate in the same session unless reconsideration is moved by a Senator who voted with the prevailing side and by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate. If a motion to reconsider is voted on and lost another motion to reconsider may not be brought.

11. Any Senator after being called to speak may call the question. A Senator who calls the question waives their right to the additional time they are allotted for debate. The Chairperson of the USGA Senate is not required to accept the motion for closure of debate.

12. Any Senator may interrupt debate to clarify a point of order. The President and Parliamentarian will rule on a point of order in accordance with the guidelines for interpretation as set forth in this Standing Order.

**Amendments:**

13. Any Senator can move to amend a motion pending before the USGA Senate. An amendment must be relevant to the motion pending before the USGA Senate. The amendment may only be moved on words, items, or actions that have not already been agreed upon. Each amendment must be fully considered and disposed of before another amendment may be proposed. Only the Senator who proposes the amendment may withdraw the amendment from consideration.

14. When an amendment is moved and seconded debate must be confined only to the amendment, unless it involves consideration and decision of the main motion, in which case both the main question and amendment are open for discussion.

**Voting:**

15. Voting by voice or by hand will be the default method of counting votes within the USGA Senate.

16. Any voting member of the Senate may ask that the vote be counted by ballot or by roll call. The President has the authority to order that a vote will be counted by ballot or by roll call.

**Conflicts of Interest:**

17. No member of the Senate shall vote or participate in debate on any matter that creates a conflict of interest. Conflicts of Interest are defined in the USGA Bylaws.

**Rules Governing the Chairperson:**

18. The President of the USGA shall act as Chairperson and preside over all meetings of the USGA Senate. In the President's absence, the Chairperson of the USGA Senate shall be selected in accordance with the USGA Bylaws.

19. The President is responsible for maintaining order in the USGA Senate.

20. The President is responsible for creating a balanced debate. To accomplish this end the President shall, during debate, first ask the maker of the motion if he/she would like to speak on behalf of the motion. After the maker of the motion has had the opportunity to speak on behalf of the motion, the President shall then ask the USGA Senate if anyone would like to speak against the motion and then recognize such person. The President shall continue the debate by alternating recognition of speakers who are for and against the motion.

21. When it appears as if debate has come to an end, or if the time for debate has expired (see Paragraph 5), the President is responsible for calling the question.

22. The President shall not vote on any matter pending before the Senate unless the vote in the Senate results in a tie. When a vote in the Senate results in a tie, the President shall cast the tiebreaking vote.

23. The President may not participate in the debate of any matter pending before the Senate unless the President yields his chair.

**Conflicts and Supplemental Authority:**

24. Any provision in this Standing Order which conflicts with the Constitution or Bylaws of the USGA shall be deemed invalid. Any term found to be invalid shall have no impact upon the rest of this Standing Order.

25. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern debate within the Senate in all cases in which they are not inconsistent with this Standing Order.

**Duration:**

26. This Standing Order shall be considered valid and binding upon the USGA Senate until such time as it is repealed or modified by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Senate.

**THE RULES SET FORTH IN THIS STANDING ORDER ARE HEREBY  
ADOPTED BY THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION  
THIS THE EIGHTH DAY OF MARCH 2006.**