

FORMAL RULES FOR DEBATE IN THE CAS SENATE (Draft)

These rules could be entered as a new subsection III.9.G under Section III.9 (“Procedures for the College Senate”) of the College Senate Bylaws.

To help avoid a recurrence of the issues which arose in the days before the November 18 CAS Senate meeting and at the beginning of that meeting, I think it would be a good idea to augment the CAS Senate Bylaws with some rules for debates, which might include the following:

(i) In a debate on a controversial main motion or subsidiary motion, the presiding officer should alternate recognizing proponents and opponents. The presiding officer can do so by alternately asking “Who would like to speak for this motion?” and “Who would like to speak against this motion?”.

(ii) The initial pair of speeches for and against a main motion are limited to a maximum of 10 minutes each (cf. *Robert’s Rules of Order*, 11th ed., p. 387, lines 29-34), and later speeches are limited to a maximum of 2 minutes each.

(iii) All CAS senators have a right to give a first speech on a motion before the presiding officer recognizes a CAS senator who wants to speak twice on the same motion. (Cf. *Robert’s Rules of Order*, 11th ed., p. 379, lines 27-31 and p. 389, lines 25-28).

(iv) Merely asking a brief question or responding briefly to a question or making a brief suggestion is not counted as speaking in a debate. (Cf. *Robert’s Rules of Order*, 11th ed., p. 389, lines 6-7.)

(v) If the initial speaker for or against a main motion wants to make a power-point presentation, it shall be no longer than 10 slides, and it must be sent to the presiding officer at least 2 hours before the CAS Senate meeting. There shall be equal opportunities to make power-point presentations as part of the initial pair of speeches for and against a controversial motion. It is courteous, though not required, for the initial speakers for and against a controversial main motion to share their power-point presentations with each other at least 2 hours before a CAS Senate meeting.

(vi) A subsidiary motion “to call the question” on a main motion is not in order unless at least 4 different senators have spoken on the main motion.

(vii) UD faculty members and/or students and/or staff who are not CAS senators can be recognized at the presiding officer’s discretion, and shall be recognized by the presiding officer if a CAS senator has requested that they be recognized. Other members of the UD community, such as UD alumni or local legislators, may also be recognized at the presiding officer’s discretion.

(viii) Any or all of these rules for debate can be temporarily suspended by a motion “to suspend the rules”, which requires a second and a 2/3 majority vote. (Cf. *Robert’s Rules of Order*, 11th ed., pp. 260-262.)