

## Replace Roberts Rules With Graduate Employee's Union Rules of Order

### ARTICLE ELEVEN – MEETINGS

Section One- All meetings shall operate under ~~Roberts Rules of Order~~ the Graduate Employee's Union Rules of Order, described as follows:

1. Queues with more than fifteen members in attendance shall be managed as follows:
  - a. Individuals will raise their hands indicating whether they wish to speak in favor of a motion (thumbs up), against a motion (thumbs down), or to ask a question, request clarification, or otherwise speak neutrally about a motion (thumbs sideways).
  - b. The queue shall cycle through categories of opinion – favored, opposed, and neutral – in the order of speakers. If a category has no speakers during a round, the queue shall go to the next category.
  - c. Speakers will not repeat opinions. If their opinion has been voiced, speakers should remove themselves from the queue to expedite meetings.
  - d. When questions are asked by a member they shall be answered by the member who brought the motion (if applicable) or the meeting leader. If the meeting leader requires additional assistance in clarification, they can deviate from the queue to ask other members who may be experts in the issue.
2. Approval of a motion, issue, or member comment should be demonstrated using some sort of auditory or visual cue – snapping fingers, clapping, sparkle-hands, etc. Members should know that this signal indicates agreement, so that opinions do not need to be re-stated in the speakers queue for emphasis.
3. The choice to take a discussion into motion-making, motion-editing, or voting phases shall be made when either discussion has ended, or when the queue list begins to repeat opinions – as decided by the leader of the meeting.
4. The flow of meetings shall proceed as follows:
  - . Open discussion of an issue (e.g. changes to bylaws, political endorsements, changes to budget, etc.). This may follow specified queue procedure or not, depending on the contentious nature of the discussion.
  - a. Once general discussion has died down, the meeting leader will ask for motions (suggested changes or responses to the issue being discussed)
  - b. A member will suggest a motion
  - c. Members will discuss this motion through use of the queue system
  - d. During this discussion, members may suggest changes to the motion at hand. These will be recorded and discussed. Members should not suggest minor edits to motions, as these will be edited for grammar after the meeting.
  - e. Once discussion has come to a close, the leader of the meeting shall call for a vote.
- i. If more than one option for an alteration to the motion has been offered, then members able to vote on all of them in turn. Each member should vote for their preferred motion(s), bearing in mind that voting for more than one alternative may lead to ties that will require further voting.
- ii. In the case of multiple popular options, the meeting leader shall hold subsequent elimination votes, either by voting as above on all remaining motion options, or by voting "yes" and "no" in sequence.

- iii. If only the original motion has been offered, without suggested changes, members shall vote either 'yes' or 'no' on a motion.
- iv. When there is not a clear majority in a vocal vote, there will be a hand count for the options which the vocal vote could not choose between.
  - f. If all votes and subsequent votes on a motion yield a tie, or close to a tie, then the membership will vote on one of the following options:
    - . Table the discussion, think about it, and bring it up at the next meeting.
    - i. Ask e-council and the e-board to discuss the issue, change the resolution as needed, and vote on it.
    - ii. Re-open discussion, and vote on it again at this meeting.
  - 5. Agendas will be set by the e-council for GMMs, and by the e-board for e-council meetings. Time will be allotted to each item. If more time is required during a discussion point, the meeting leader will ask for a vote to extend the conversation by 5 or 10 minutes. A simple majority vote is required to add time to discussion; if the motion for additional time fails, the agenda item proceeds to a vote if a motion is being considered, or onto the next discussion point.
  - 6. This is a new rules system. If members have suggested improvements or alterations to this rule system, they or their steward may propose suggested alterations at any e-council meeting. If the suggested changes pass with a simple majority vote, then they will be implemented for the rest of the year. If they work well, they should be voted on by the membership for incorporation into the bylaws.