

INFORMAL GROUND RULES

I. Time Limits

1. The President of the Senate shall, at the beginning of every meeting, request a time keeper to announce when time limits have been reached.
2. Every agenda item shall be labeled “for information (or discussion)” or “action” and shall have a time limit. The Senate shall approve the agenda at the start of each meeting.
3. When a time limit has been reached on any agenda item, any Senator may request an extension of time of up to ten minutes. Without discussion or amendment, the Senate shall vote on this request, which shall carry by majority vote.
4. At the end of an extended time limit, any Senator may request a further ten minute extension of time. One Senator may speak for the further extension and one Senator may speak against it. A second (and subsequent) extension of time requires a 2/3rds vote to carry.

II. Alternative Models

1. When an action item is brought before the Senate, the President may convene the Senate as a Committee of the Whole. At such times, any Senator may propose an alternative model of action. Such models shall be listed on a black-board. Similar alternatives shall be merged if the sponsoring Senators agree.
2. The alternatives will be on the floor simultaneously and discussion may be directed toward one or several.
3. When discussion concludes, Senators shall be polled regarding their preferences among the alternatives.
4. When a preference can be identified among the Senators, the President shall reconvene the body as the Senate. By Robert's Rules, it shall act on a motion embodying the Senate's preference.