

General Assembly By-Laws

Purpose

The following General Assembly By-laws are established to clarify and augment various provisions of the Cornell College Student Senate Constitution. In the case of a conflict, the Senate Constitution supersedes this document.

Article I. Draft Agenda

In order to facilitate contact between senators and their constituency, any known business shall be included in a draft agenda for each scheduled General Assembly meeting. The Office Manager shall prepare the draft agenda.

1. This agenda shall be made public by the Office Manager by noon the day of the applicable meeting and presented at the beginning of that meeting.
2. All Senators shall make a good-faith effort to inform the Office Manager by the day of the next General Assembly meeting of the business they shall present.
3. At every meeting, the chair shall make time available for non-Senators to address the General Assembly.
4. Any information pertaining to any motions or business referenced in the draft agenda shall be provided to the General Assembly along with the draft agenda if such information exists and is available.
5. By-Law Section I of these General Assembly By-Laws should not be construed to prohibit or hinder free discussion, debate or legislation.

Article II. Allowed Motions

In order to expedite General Assembly proceedings and shorten needed visits by non-Senators for routine matters, the ability to make motions for every-day Senate business must be more clearly defined.

1. During the time allotted for reports by each member of the Executive Council, only motions pertaining directly to their respective constitutional duties are permitted.
2. During the time allotted for reports by each General Assembly representative that senator has full speaking privileges but no motions are allowed.

Article III. Prior Presentation

In order to allow ample time for deliberation over important matters and to give Senators an opportunity to speak with constituents about difficult decisions, major legislation must be presented to the General Assembly in advance of its motion to allow careful consideration.

1. Major pieces of legislation as defined in part C of this section may not be put before the Assembly in the form of a motion until a Senator delivers a prior presentation of that business.
2. Prior presentation must:
 - i. Be delivered during a General Assembly Meeting where quorum is present.
 - ii. Constitute the entire intended motion and be substantially identical.
 - iii. Be presented no more than one academic block before the actual motion date.
 - iv. Be submitted in writing.

3. Prior presentation is required for:
 - i. Amendments to Senate By-Laws.
 - ii. Amendments to the Senate Constitution.
 - iii. Senate Resolutions, including activity fee recommendations.
 - iv. Appropriations exceeding \$1,000 with the exception of the fall budget process.
 - v. Approval of entirely new student organizations' constitution.
4. Representatives of relevant student organizations need not be present for prior presentation of legislation.
5. Questions by other senators during prior presentation must be confined to objective, fact-based inquiries.
6. Section III of these General Assembly By-Laws should not be construed to hinder debate or to discourage prior presentation for any other forms of legislation.

Article IV. Committee Appointment

1. A candidate for a Senate committee must be present at the General Assembly meeting during which that person is appointed.

Article V. Temporary Override of this Document

1. Any provision of this By-Law document may be temporarily overridden for a specific duration given a 2/3 majority vote of Senate.

Last Ratified by Student Senate: May 19, 2009