



**college
council**

emory university

**Rules of the
Legislature**

COLLEGE COUNCIL

Rules of Legislature

In order to provide for the effective representation of the interests of the student body of the Emory College of Arts & Sciences, through student government, we, the students of Emory College of Arts & Sciences, do hereby establish and ordain these Rules of the Legislature.



EMORY | COLLEGE COUNCIL

ARTICLE I LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

Section i. Quorum - A quorum shall consist of a majority (50%+ 1) of the membership of the Legislature. In the absence of a quorum, the Legislature has the power only to order a call of the House, to dissolve into the Committee of the Whole, to recess, or to adjourn. The President may appoint temporary legislators to meet quorum, if a majority (50%+ 1) of the Executive Board deems it necessary.

Section ii. The Speaker

- A. The Vice President of the College Council shall serve as the Speaker of the Student Legislature and act as the presiding officer.
- B. The President Pro Tempore presides in the absence of the Speaker and is elected by a 2/3 vote from among the members of the Legislature at the first meeting of each new Legislature. The President Pro Tempore shall preside at all legislative meetings where the Speaker is not in attendance or the Speaker wishes to engage in debate. In the absence of the President Pro Tempore, the Vice President for Communications will call the meeting to order and conduct the election of a Speaker. The President Pro Tempore may be removed by a 2/3 vote of the legislators present.

Section iii. Floor Privileges - Floor privileges are given to:

- 1. The Executive Vice President of the College Council (or President Pro Tempore in case the Executive Vice President is absent or is engaged in debate)
- 2. Members of the Legislature
- 3. The President of the College Council
- 4. Members of the Executive Board
- 5. All other Emory University students
- 6. Emory University alumni
- 7. Emory University administrators
- 8. Emory University faculty

Section iv. Guests - Any student or guest of the Legislature shall be admitted to the legislature galley. As such, the Legislature shall conduct its business in an orderly and proper manner. Guests may be removed for disorderly or disruptive conduct at the discretion of the Speaker.

ARTICLE II DEBATE

Section i. Eligibility in Debate - Only those with floor privileges as outlined in Article I, Section III of the Standing Rules may engage in debate.

Section ii. Claiming the Floor - No person may claim the floor unless recognized by the Speaker except to make the following motions: to reconsider, to raise a question of privilege, to raise a question of order, to appeal a decision of the Chair, or to object to the consideration of a question.

EMORY | COLLEGE COUNCIL

Section iii.

Rules of Debate

- A. There must be a question before the Legislature.
- B. Debate must be germane to the question.
- C. The sponsor of the question must be allowed to speak last.
- D. If the previous question is ordered, then the sponsor may speak for two minutes before the vote is taken.
- E. All debate shall be conducted in a civil, respectful, and orderly manner.

Section iv.

Length of Debate - Debate on a question shall continue as long as any person wishes to speak, unless the previous question is ordered or a motion to limit the debate has been passed. The Speaker, without motion, may limit debate if deemed necessary.

ARTICLE III

VOTING

Section i.

Rules of Voting

- A. A voting member of the Legislature shall be permitted to proxy a vote to the Speaker only regarding the bill on the table when that member leaves the meeting. The only permissible votes are: a yea for its entirety (with amendments), a nay for its entirety (with amendments), or a withdraw with any amendment.
- B. The Speaker may only vote when the vote will affect the outcome of the vote.
 - i. The Speaker may vote to break a tie.
 - ii. The Speaker may vote to force a tie and defeat the question if the Speaker is the President Pro Tempore.
- C. Votes may be changed if the request is made before the results are announced.
- D. Except where noted, the necessary votes required to pass a motion, bill, resolution, or other legislative action will be based on the members present at the legislative session where quorum is met. Proxy votes will be included in the voting total.
- E. No Legislator may vote via a proxy without being present at the meeting except for the following exceptions:
 - i. Should a Legislator have to leave the room during debate and has already made up his/her mind, they may tell the Speaker in writing which way they will vote and it will be counted in the final vote tally.
 - ii. This exception only applies when the Legislator has sat through the debate on the question at hand before having to leave; the Legislator cannot submit votes for questions on which debate has not been had.

Section ii.

Methods of Voting

- A. Voice votes.
- B. Division may be requested by any member.
- C. Roll call votes may be requested by one-tenth of the members present. All roll call votes must be recorded in the minutes of the meetings
- D. Unanimous Consent: where no voting member verbally dissents

ARTICLE IV

MOTIONS

Section i.

The following questions may be considered, subject to the noted limitations. These motions are given in order of preference.

EMORY | COLLEGE COUNCIL

- Section ii.* Privileged Motions - All of these motions require a majority vote, and none may be reconsidered:
- A. To move or give notice of reconsideration- must be seconded; is debatable and amendable only if delineated in the original motion.
 - B. To adjourn- must be seconded; is not debatable or amendable.
 - C. Call of the House- must be seconded; is not debatable or amendable.
 - D. Recess- must be seconded; is not debatable or amendable.
 - E. Question of Privilege- need not be seconded; is not debatable or amendable.
 - F. Call for the orders of the day- need not be seconded; is not debatable or amendable.
- Section iii.* Incidental Questions
- A. Questions of order- need not be seconded; are not debatable or amendable; the Speaker decides the result.
 - B. Appeals from the decision of the Speaker- must be seconded; are debatable and amendable; may be reconsidered; a 2/3 vote is required to overrule the Speaker.
 - C. Suspension of the Rules- must be seconded; is not debatable or amendable; may not be reconsidered; requires a 2/3 vote.
 - D. Objection to the consideration of a question- need not be seconded; is not debatable or amendable; requires a 2/3 vote; an affirmative vote may not be reconsidered, but a negative vote may.
- Section iv.* Subsidiary Motions - All of these motions must be seconded and all require a majority vote:
- A. To lay on the table- is not debatable or amendable; may not be reconsidered.
 - B. To call the previous question- is not debatable or amendable, may not be reconsidered after vote is taken.
 - C. To limit or extend limits of debate- is not debatable or amendable, may be reconsidered.
 - D. To postpone indefinitely- is debatable and amendable; may not be reconsidered.
 - E. To refer, to commit, or to recommit- is debatable and amendable; may not be reconsidered; but a bill may be discharged from a committee by a 2/3 vote.
 - F. To divide questions- is not debatable; is amendable; may not be reconsidered.
 - G. To amend- is debatable if the question is; may be amended once; may be reconsidered; is automatically passed if amendment is submitted by the sponsor of the bill i.e., friendly; or debatable if the amendment is submitted by a non-sponsor and is opposed by the sponsor i.e., unfriendly. All friendly amendments shall be accepted by the Vice President for Communication and added to the bill as soon as it is submitted in writing or in a motion by the sponsor before voting on the bill itself. All unfriendly amendments must be submitted in writing to the Vice President for Communication before the vote is taken. An unfriendly amendment requires a 2/3 vote.
- Section v.* Main Motion - All of these motions must be seconded; all are debatable and amendable, and all require a majority vote.
- A. To adopt, to ratify, to pass, to concur, etc.- may be reconsidered
 - B. To rescind, to repeal, to annul- may not be reconsidered; requires a majority vote with notice at the precious meeting; or a 2/3 vote with not notice. C. Incidental main motions- may be reconsidered.

EMORY | COLLEGE COUNCIL

- Section i.* The following order of business must be followed, except by suspension of the rules:
- A. Call to order
 - B. Call of the Council
 - C. Guest Speaker
 - D. Approval of the Minutes
 - E. First Reading of Bills
 - F. Daily Calendar
 - G. Tabled Bills
 - H. Executive Messages to the Council
 - I. Legislative Messages to the Council
 - J. Call of the Council
 - K. Open Forum
 - L. Adjournment

Article VI **Consideration of Legislation**

Section i. Introduction of Legislation

- A. A bill may be introduced by any student of Emory University. It must be submitted in writing to the Vice President for Communication, who will assign it a number and a title.
- B. The first reading of the bill will occur at the first meeting after it has been submitted. In order to receive a first reading the bill must reach the Vice President for Communication by 5:00PM on Monday afternoon.
- C. After the first reading, the bill is referred to the appropriate committee by the Vice President if necessary.
- D. When a bill is brought up on the calendar, it is read by the Speaker. Then it is presented by the author, who must be either the President or the Treasurer of an organization. A designated representative of the organization may also present after the organization's President or Treasurer requests permission and receives written confirmation from the Vice President. The committee report will be submitted and questions may be asked of the author/representative and the committee prior to debate of the bill.
- E. The bill will be read for the third time immediately preceding the vote. The first and third readings will be by title only.
- F. A bill cannot remain on the table for more than three meetings. On the agenda, the Vice President for Communication will note how many meetings each tabled bill has been on the agenda. At the third meeting, he/she will alert the Council of the bill's condition during Executive Messages to the Council. If the bill remains on the table by the time the Vice President moves out of the Daily Calendar, it will automatically be failed without voting.

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