



SB 021624

**A Bill to Give Senate the Ability to End Rambling Outside of Business
Germane to the Business of Student Senate**

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- Whereas:** Currently there is no procedure for Student Senate to revoke speaking privileges of another Senator;
- Whereas:** Senators could theoretically filibuster in perpetuity with no real means within the rules for Student Senate to end the filibuster;
- Whereas:** Senators rambling without the means to end comprises the ability of Senate to move through the important items on the agenda;
- Therefore be it resolved:** The following changes will be made to the Student Senate Standing Rules.

I. Point of Order

- A. Used by a Senator when they believe the Legislature, a Member of the Associated Student Government, or a guest is violating a rule or not following parliamentary procedure.
 - 1. This point may also be used to initiate cloture proceedings as described in Section XII.
- B. Must be made immediately after an infraction, and may interrupt a speaker if applicable.
- C. Requires an explanation on the issue from the Presiding Officer and rectification if it is determined an infraction occurred.
 - 1. The Presiding Officer may delegate the explanation to the Parliamentarian if he or she is unsure.
- D. A Senator, unsatisfied with the Presiding Officer's response, may appeal the decision according to Article XI of these Standing Rules.

II. Debate

- A. A Senator is said to be "holding the floor" if they are speaking during debate.
- B. A Senator holding the floor may:
 - 1. Yield time to another Associated Student Government member.
 - 2. Yield all remaining time back to the Floor.
- C. General Rules for Debate
 - 1. Debate occurs on any question if:
 - a) The question is debatable.
 - b) There is a Senator objecting to that question.
 - 2. The right to debate is always reserved to members of the Associated Student Government.
 - 3. The right to debate may be offered to an individual not in Associated Student Government if he or she is an author.
 - 4. If two or more Senators seek recognition at the same time, the Presiding Officer shall determine whom to recognize.
 - 5. No Senator or Associated Student Government member may:
 - a) Hold private conversation while the Presiding Officer is addressing the Senate or in a manner disruptive to debate.
 - b) Speak during debate upon a subject other than the question under debate.
 - c) Make derogatory personal references about other Senators.
 - 6. Should a speaker hold the floor for an excessive amount of time speaking outside topics germane to the business of Student Senate, cloture proceedings may be initiated by any other Senator through a request made by a Point of Order.

- a) The the Presiding Officer may rule cloture proceedings Out of Order if they believe that the Senator speaking is remaining germane to the business of Student Senate.
- b) Should the Presiding Officer accept the start of cloture proceedings, than the Senate shall hold a procedural vote with a simple majority to determine if the Senator holding the floor shall be forced to yield the floor.
- c) Should the vote pass, the floor shall be yielded to the Presiding Officer.
- d) Should the vote fail, the floor shall remain with the Senator who previously held it.